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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Bendjedid Arrives in Tunis for Maghreb Summit

LD2201130290 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tunis, 22/1/90 (APS)—At his arrival to Tunis, to take part in the UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] summit, President Chadli Bendjedid put the stress on the importance of the meeting of Maghreb leaders which, he said, will offer the occasion to assess the rapid changes operated in various fields and various continents and continue efforts in order to reinforce the principle on which the Union of Arab Maghreb is founded.

President Chadli Bendjejid expressed on this occasion the satisfaction of Algeria about the results reached on the way of the edification of the Arab Maghreb, adding that the Maghreb summit in Tunis will enable to reach new claims which will close the door to any return.

"Thanks to efforts of all, we are optimistic about the realization of aspirations of rising generations", President Chadli Bendjedid continued underlining that "future generations will continue the edification of the Arab Maghreb" and insisted on the necessity to create new traditions and make the Maghreb countries to go beyond the national frame and think Maghreb terms.

Arab Maghreb Union Summit Begins in Tunis

King Hassan Opens Summit

LD2201134690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1214 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Opening speech by King Hassan II of Morocco at Arab Maghreb Union Summit at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Prayers and peace be upon our master the Prophet of God, his family, and his kinfolk. Dear brothers, excellencies, honorable ministers and ambassadors, gentlemen: It is a great honor for me to open this session to transfer to my dear brother, His Excellency President Zine el Abidine of Tunisia, the chairmanship of the second summit of the Greater Arab Maghreb.

This handing over is only symbolic and traditional, because in fact responsibility has been his since 1 January of this year. [passage omitted]

The balance sheet I presented to you as the new chairman is nothing but a collective one, because before anything else, it was the result of a common, continuous, [words indistinct], serious and responsible action. Yes, we can say that we have achieved positive results, but the ambitious will not be satisfied by them, and we are not satisfied by them. However, they constitute a principal and important cornerstone in the building and construction awaiting us.

Now, from this honorable rostrum, I turn to our peoples. We must realize that our work is accomplished from Tripoli to Nouakchott, and when I say from Tripoli to Nouakchott, I would like us to envisage the geographic, demographic, economic, and social maps—that is what I mean by from Tripoli to Nouakchott. If these maps embody the seriousness of what we are dealing with, and if they represent a reality with epic characteristics and plans, they also portray the enormity and sacredness of the mission, and the need for balanced thinking, patience, endurance, and diligence, and the need to take into consideration the geographic, and economic factors pertaining to all the countries.

What are our objectives? Our objectives are to make this Arab Maghreb a united country with a common passport, common identity card, common identity, and a common currency.

These numerous aims compromise various dimensions and important elements—demographic, economic, financial and, above all, the creation of the Maghreban man who will have to deal with all this and do so in a reasonable, [word indistinct] and responsible manner.

The immensity of the task should not weaken our strength or frighten us, but it should impel us forward so that we embrace the truth, live it day and night, and make these objectives become the motto of our life both day and night, in the office and in all our activities and all our thoughts.

Our peoples want unity, and we want unity. Our peoples have put their confidence in us, and we give them our life, time, effort, and even our family life in the midst of our greater family, which is our people. Thus, we all—leaders and peoples—should be up to this responsibility. I am confident that we shall have a rendezvous with history.

Before I conclude, I want to convey my deep gratitude to all those who helped me in my [word indistinct] task; to all the states which make up the Greater Arab Maghreb—Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. They worked day and night; their work was characterized by democracy in that it was built upon dialogue, discussion, and compromises. I thank them for their help and [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Speech

LD2201141290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1228 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Speech by Tunisian President Ben Ali at Arab Maghreb Union summit in the Palace of the Republic of Carthage—live]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies: It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you among your family and kinship, as noble brothers in your homeland Tunisia, this part of our Great Arab Maghreb, for the sake of which we meet today in order to continue laying its firm foundations. [passage omitted]

We are now aware, as much as we are honored, of the importance of the responsibility we are all shouldering toward our peoples who are striving for the embodiment of their legitimate aspirations to achieve progress and strength through solidarity and integrations within the framework of solidarity on which our Arab nation is based, which will remain, first and last, as our guiding principle in our blessed Maghreban march.

It pleases us to record with you, and with all satisfaction, what has been achieved since our historic meeting at the Zeralda summit, and our declaration of the setting up of the Arab Maghreb at the Marrakech summit, in the form of extremely important steps represented by the implanting the structures of the union, and giving it the necessary institutional and legal character for the start of the Maghreb Union action at all levels and in all domains.

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] has now passed, thanks be to God, the stage of the completion of its foundation structures, and for this reason we believe that it is necessary today to preserve this gain and to work for strengthening it with new practical achievements.

What is really a source of joy and hope for us is that these objectives are not difficult to achieve despite all the problems and difficulties inherent in any action of this kind, all the more since we all have the sincere political will to implant the pillars of our union and provide all the adequate conditions for setting up an integrated, cohesive Arab Maghreb as the best framework for the consolidation of the relations of cooperation and solidarity between fraternal peoples.

It is no surprise that Tunisia attaches a great importance to its Arab identity, its loyalty to its holy religion, its attachment to its Maghreb community. For this reason, and in parallel with our continuous action to provide the adequate conditions for the setting up of the AMU, and our relentless work within its various institutional to take part in its march, Tunisia has attached the same importance to its bilateral relations with each of the fraternal states of this region, and worked for the enrichment of these relations and for placing them in the service of all the Maghreb community.

While the dynamism of our bilateral action between us and each fraternal Maghreb country was, in our opinion, in harmony with our common efforts within our Greater Arab Maghreb, we always believe that our union is like a brick, solid and cohesive with which to contribute in the building of the edifice of the desired Arab union within the Arab League, whose headquarters Tunisia has provided in the darkest circumstances, giving it working conditions accepted by all the states, and whose presence on the land of our Greater Arab Maghreb is considered as an affirmation of the link between the two wings of the nation, East and West.

It is no wonder then that our Union should declare its firm resolve to consolidate its relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Cooperation Council on account that they are all Arab regional groupings which strive to bolster the joint Arab action and at all times are committed to the aims of the Arab nation and to the defense of the Arab nation's fateful issues. How we rejoiced when both Morocco and Algeria—the two members of our union—participated in the endeavors of the tripartite committee on Lebanon together with the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—the committee whose work was crowned with the restoration of national accord and the bolstering of legitimacy in this sister country. Tunis is also proud of the fact that it plays host to the headquarters of the PLO, and the efforts being made by the Great Maghreb states, whether within the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of His Majest King Hassan II or in other Arab and international committees for the sake of the main issue of our Arab nation—the Palestinian issue, which is still being confronted by Israel's intrasigence and rejection of all peaceful settlement proposals based on international legitimacy.

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, our Maghreban peoples feel the depth of the historic, cultural, and spiritual ties that have existed for a very long time between them and the rest of the African peoples. [passage omitted]

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, the location of our Greater Arab Maghreb south of the Mediterranean and at the gates of the Atlantic has made our countries a crucible in which various civilizations melted together as a result of the trade exchange and the cultural and [words indistinct]. This became a prominent characteristic in the personality of the people of this region. [passage omitted]

Therefore, as much as we adhere to the bases of our Arab Islamic identity on account that it is deeply rooted in our pan-Arab conscience, we also attach to our Mediterranean environment historic and geographical importance and what it requires in terms of necessity for (?serious) participation in order to keep it as a lake of peace, cooperation, and amity, especially through the bolstering and enrichment of the cultural dialogue between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.

Our concern, within the framework of our Arab Maghreb Union, about the future changes that would be witnessed in the European Economic Community from 1993, which will make the community's members a single economic entity before [words indistinct], may be a conscious interpretation of the special traditional relations between all our Maghreb countries and the European Community, especially in [words indistinct] exchanges and cooperation in the completion of development projects, in addition to the presence of substantial Maghreban communities in Europe. Therefore, it is our duty, and in view of the diversity of our interests, to bolster our relations with the EC on the bases of cooperation and mutual respect. [Passage omitted]

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, there is no doubt that the success of our efforts to establish productive and advanced cooperation among the greater Arab Maghreb countries depends on establishing fruitful relations with all the regional peoples and organizations. [passage omitted]

In order to achieve these noble objectives, our union, with all its apparatuses and institutions, will have to give priority to the studying of practical methods and laying down a coordinated technical plan to achieve food security for our people, in view of the importance of this to our present and future. Our union is also urged to give more care and attention as of now to take practical steps toward establishing a common maghreb economic market and an Arab Maghreb without borders that would make it possible for the region's people to move and settle in any part of the Maghreb. [passage omitted]

It is also doubtless that among the priorities of our union is the upbringing of a new Maghreban generation, and the collective efforts this requires at the level of the coordination of educational programs, the intensification of cooperation in the fields of culture, information, and youth, in order to kindle the flame of belonging in our future generation by developing the feeling of the close connection of the interests of the Maghreban family, and the oneness of our fate.

We are sure that we will be more capable of achieving these aims if we seek the assistance of appropriate structures which are endowed with more conditions of efficiency and ability to persevere. We also absolutely agree that the size and the staff and the cost of running of the structures of our union should not exceed the need required to ensure the continuity of the common action in conformity with firm and efficient channels.

Consequently, maybe the time has come for us to think together, after a whole year of unionist action, to better organize the Maghreban bodies and give them more human and material resources so that they play their roles in the required way, and so that their action acquires continuity and regularity. [passage omitted]

Mauritania's Baba Speaks

LD2201144190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1247 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Speech by Mauritanian Foreign Minister Sid' Ahmed Ould Baba at Arab Maghreb Union summit in Palace of the Republic in Carthage—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Prayers and peace to the Lord of the Prophets! Esteemed President, Your Majesty, Your Excellencies! Your brother Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state in the Mauritanian Islamic Republic, has entrusted me to convey to you his regards and wishes for good health and happiness and, to this first round of sessions of the Chairmanship Council of the Arab Maghreb Union his wishes for success.

His excellency the president was anxious to participate in person at the Tunis summit, which in his opinion represents a watershed on the road to the building of the greater Arab Maghreb. God's will, however, determined otherwise, and there is no going back on God's judgment.

The extraordinary circumstances to which I refer have prevented His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya from being with you today, as he had desired. He has entrusted me to affirm to you that he is present with you with his heart and sentiments, monitoring and blessing every step you take on the road to achieving the hopes of our peoples in building a unified and [word indistinct] Arab Maghreb.

God is the lord of success. May God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Closed Session Announced

LD2201143890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1249 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Remarks by Tunisian President Ben Ali concluding the opening session of the Arab Maghreb Union Summit in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage—live]

[Text] On this occasion I would like to express our regret at the fact that our brother, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, is unable to participate at this session. I pray to God Almighty to save him and the fraternal Mauritanian people from harm.

Now that we have reached the end of our opening session I declare the session adjourned, on the understanding that we resume our work this afternoon in closed session.

God bless you and your efforts.

Leaders Meet 21 Jan

LD2301010590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Habib Boulares, minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] Presidium meeting, held a press conference on the evening of 22 January which included:

[Begin Boulares recording] The meeting that was held 21 January among our leaders, His Majesty King Hassan II, President Chadli Bendjedid, the leader of the Libyan revolution, and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, has allowed an agreement on measures to arrange this summit. Perhaps you noticed some delays this morning.

This is due to an agreement among the leaders yesterday that the meeting should start at 1200. Indeed, the leaders started to arrive at 1200 at Carthage Palace. [Passage omitted]

So far, I can only say that it has been decided that we will hold a final session tomorrow at midday. [end recording]

Closed Session Held

LD2301111290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] summit continued in closed session, during which the main issues of food security, a common identity card, and freedom of movement were discussed. The meeting also dealt with organizational matters concerning the permanent headquarters of the secretariat general and coordination among Maghreb countries regarding sensitive issues. It was agreed that the final session will be held today at 1200 to endorse the resolutions.

In reply to a question about coordinating positions on other regional organizations, Habib Boulares said that the summit will task the chairman of the leadership council with intensifying contacts with organizations and seek ways of promoting them. Regarding the term of the AMU chairmanship, the summit's official spokesman said that, as stated in the Marrakech accord, the term will be limited to 6 months, and the leadership council's meeting will be held regularly on the 1st and 7th months of each year.

At the end of the meeting, a final statement will be released that will include all those points. We have learned from informed sources that the headquarters of the commissions will be allocated as follows: the Economic and Finance Commission will be based in Algiers; the Main Structure [Al-Bunyah al-Asasiyyah] Commission will be based in Tripoli; the Food Security Commission will be based in Rabat; the Human Resources Commission will be based in Tunis; and a sub-branch of the Security Affairs Commission will be based in Nouakchott.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat in Tunis

LD2201205990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] This evening, the brother leader of the revolution received the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis.

Receives Mauritania's Baba

LD2201212190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received this evening Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who is attending the first session of the Arab Maghreb Union Council.

Palestinian Affairs

Israel Approves Selection Process for Talks

LD2301081890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0726 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 23 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official was quoted here Tuesday as saying that a new method for selecting a Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel has been blessed by Israel, Egypt and the PLO.

The official told Kuwaiti daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM that the Palestinian delegation will be formed in a similar way to the appointment of international arbitrators for the Israeli-Egyptian dispute over the Tabah area.

According to the unidentified official, the PLO, Egypt, and Israel were informed of the new method recently and they all welcomed it. The U.S. has proposed 25 names from inside the occupied territories and some deportees out of whom only ten figures should be chosen for the talks.

[Words indistinct] of a Palestinian delegation has been stalling direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis over local elections in the occupied territories.

Local elections have been called for by Israel in an apparent attempt to bring an end to the uprising which has been annoying Israel and kept it heavily preoccupied with quelling it since its outbreak in December 1987.

PLO's Bal'awi Hands Memo to U.S. Envoy

JN2201191890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Tunisia, met with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau in Tunis the day before yesterday and handed him an official memorandum to the U.S. Administration from the PLO dealing with peace efforts in the region. The memorandum stresses the need for the United States to shoulder its declared responsibilities toward the peace process, to expose and condemn the Israeli positions and plans that are hostile to peace, and to put an end to them.

During the meeting, they discussed developments in the peace efforts as well as the continued Israeli positions and measures to do away with these efforts. They also centered on the dangerous dimensions of these positions and measures that are threatening the peace process, including Shamir's recent statement on settlement in the occupied homeland. They also addressed the terrorist Israeli measures inside the occupied homeland and the arrest of brother Faysal al-Husayni and other national figures by the Zionist authorities.

They then discussed the brutal air raid carried out by the Israeli warplanes on Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon the day before yesterday. As a result of the raid, a number of civilians were martyred and scores of homes were destroyed,

Brother Hakam Bal'awi also met with the British and French ambassadors separately to discuss developments in the Middle East, especially Israeli measures to stop international efforts to bring about a just peace in the region. They stressed the need for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and save the peace process.

Fatah's Khalid al-Hasan on Status of U.S. Talks

PM1701091090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Khalid al-Hasan: We Have Broken the Ice"]

[Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has asked Fatah Central Committee member and Palestine National Council Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Khalid al-Hasan, who is currently in Washington, to assess the results of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue a year after the start of that dialogue. He replied:

We could say that the way to U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was opened a year ago, but the dialogue itself has not started yet. All that has happened, and is happening now, is that messages have been, and are being, exchanged. It seems that the time has not yet come for a dialogue on essential matters and issues which should be discussed with the United States.

Perhaps this current mode of the dialogue will change if the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli foreign ministers' meeting in Washington succeeds in leading to a bilateral meeting between the PLO and the Israeli Government in Cairo.

The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has broken the ice and ended the old boycott between the PLO and the United States. Last year the gate was opened and people are now in the garden but have not yet entered the palace. People are still looking at and talking about the garden but not about what is in the palace itself.

Hamas Reportedly Prepares New National Charter

JN2301095490 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Paris-based AL-MUHARRIR reports that the Hamas Movement has prepared a new 42-page Palestinian national charter which seeks to replace the current Palestinian national charter.

AL-MUHARRIR adds that in the preamble of the new charter, Hamas specifies that the PLO has deviated from the Palestinian national consensus and has abandoned its principles, thereby rendering the Palestinian national charter unacceptable.

AL-MUHARRIR also reports that Hamas and the Muslim brothers in Jordan recently consolidated their cooperation, and that the Muslim brothers had expressed their readiness to materially support Hamas.

Fund Chairman Details PLO, Arab Aid to Intifadah

JN1801111090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jan 90 pp 22, 17

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Excerpt] Jawid al-Ghusayn, chairman of the board of directors of the Palestine National Fund [PNF] and PLO Executive Committee member, has announced that up to December the fund provided $29 million in support of the blessed intifadah in the occupied homeland. He said the Palestinian financial establishment is bearing a huge burden in meeting the needs of our kinfolk who are resisting the occupation.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, he said the fund's expenditure amounts to more than $300 million annually, most of hwich went to the occupied territories. He said that some Arab countries began making payments in 1979 while others began later. Saudi Arabia, he said, pays $6 million monthly. Iraq pays $4 million, Kuwait $2 million, the United Arab Emirates $10 million, and Qatar $3 million.

He said Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Libya resulted in persuading the Libyan brothers to meet their financial obligations to support Palestinian steadfastness; this amounts to $6 million monthly, he said.

Al-Ghusayn appealed to the Arab leaders to support the intifadah so that it can continue and end the occupation. He said the support is far less than our people's sacrifice. He pointed out that the Arab League pledged at the Algiers summit to provide an immediate sum of $128 million and a monthly installment of $43 million from the Arab countries committed to supporting Palestinian steadfastness. Not a single penny of the immediate sum was actually paid, and less than one third of the monthly instalments are actually received, he said. [passage omitted]

Unified Intifadah Leadership Issues Statement

JN2201064390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the intifadah in the occupied territories has issued a new statement calling for adherence to the PLO's role and to its full right to form and announce the names of the Palestinian delegation to any dialogue on peace. The Unified National Leadership has also urged Syria to respond to efforts to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations. It also welcomed the call by Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Salvation Front, to return to the ranks of the PLO.

Ambassador Responds to Shamir's Remarks

LD1801134890 Algiers APS in English 1021 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 18/1/90 (APS)—The ambassador of the Palestinian state to Algiers Munhir 'Abd-al-'Izz al-Dajjani, commented on the declaration done last Sunday [14 January] by Shamir in front of the "Likud Party" who notably underlined that in five or ten years a lot of things will change in Israel to an unimaginable degree, because of the massive Soviet Jewish immigration. Effectively in ten years every thing will change in Israel not because of the immigration of the Jews of the Soviet Union, as pretended by Shamir, but because of the coming back of the Palestinian people to his Palestinian land, 'Abd-al-'Izz indicated in a declaration to the APS.

The coming back of the Palestinian people to his home land will contribute to a total change of the situation. People themselves, will change, and instead of talking of Israelis, it will be talked about Palestinians.

Hebrew will be substituted by the Arab language, the Palestinian flag with 4 colons [as received] will replace the David Star and will float on Palestine which will replace Israel.

PLO Regrets U.S. Decision To Cut FAO Contributions

JN1601201890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The PLO has called on the United States to follow a practical, serious, and constructive approach and adopt fair policies in the service of peace and world detente in line with the declared U.S. role in the Middle East. This came in a message addressed by Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, to Mr Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, following the U.S. decision to cut its contribution to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, in reprisal for the FAO's decision to extend humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. Following is the text of the message:

With extreme regret, the PLO has learned of the U.S. Administration's decision to cut its annual financial contribution to the budget of the FAO, as a reprisal against an international organization for adopting a natural resolution that is in line with its humanitarian objectives and basic role in development and aiding needy people, including our Palestinian people, in coordination with the PLO, our people's sole, legitimate representative, as indicated by the FAO council. It is noteworthy that the PLO is a member of this international organization.

The PLO expresses extreme amazement at the U.S. position, which ignores and denies the Palestinian people's right to choose their legitimate representative and constitutes an intervention in their internal affairs, especially as the U.S. decision links the cut in its contributions to the international organization's budget to the decision of the organization's council to extend aid to the Palestinian people in coordination with their sole, legitimate representative.

This move embodies the U.S. Administration's denial of our people's rights to choose their representatives freely and to enjoy international organizations' aid and privileges, including those of the FAO. This is especially true since our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland are on the verge of starvation and are suffering repression, killing, destruction, and siege. Therefore, the PLO hopes that the U.S. Administration will reconsider its decision in a manner consistent with its great international responsibilities and not obstruct the constructive role and objectives of international organizations who are working to serve and consolidate the peace process and international detente—which is in line with the declared U.S. Middle East policy to achieve peace and prosperity. This requires the U.S. Administration to follow a practical, serious, and constructive approach and to adopt a fair position.

PNC Speaker Urges UNRWA To Maintain Services

JN1701090090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A reported decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce its services to Palestinian refugees drew a strong reaction from Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih Tuesday. He urged Arab and Muslim countries to take action and prevent such measures.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said that Al-Sa'ih expressed his solidarity with the representatives of the Palestinian people residing in Jordan and voiced his deep regret over UNRWA's attempt to reduce services to the refugees, which, he said, could be a first step towards ending services altogether.

Al-Sa'ih made the statement after the representatives of refugees in Jordan sent a memorandum to the UNRWA commissioner general in Vienna protesting against the agency's intended action.

"I do hope that the news about UNRWA's intentions is not true because any reduction will have serious consequences on the allowances given to infants and pregnant women who need food supplies most," Al-Sa'ih said.

He appealed to the world community to shoulder its responsibility since, he said, it is the international community that contributed to the creation of the problem because it had been condoning Israel's illegal practices designed to prevent any peace settlement in the Middle East.

Al-Sa'ih appealed to various Arab and Islamic countries to intervene with UNRWA and stop the intended measures, which he described as detrimental to the refugees' interests.

The protest against UNRWA's measures coincided with the opening in Tunis of a six-day meeting to discuss UNRWA's operations, developments in the Palestine conflict, and Israel's practices in the occupied territories.

Contributions by various nations to UNRWA will be discussed in detail. The United States cut its contribution from $67 million in 1988 to $61 million in 1989 and $50 million this year, citing the need to resettle refugees elsewhere in the world.

UNRWA has been in the practice of launching worldwide campaigns on an annual basis to raise sufficient funds to finance its operations.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Arabic daily quoted UNRWA officials Tuesday as saying that there were no plans to reduce any services to the refugees in Jordan. The paper quoted officials as saying that it only plans to incorporate some of the services to save on cost of operations. This merger, they said, is deemed necessary in view of the difficulties the agency was facing at this time in view of dwindling resources.

OPEC Affairs

Algerian Mines Minister Appointed Chairman

LD1501234190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Sadek Boussena, the Algerian minister of mines, was recently appointed chairman of OPEC, succeeding the Nigerian Rilwanu Lukman, who became his country's foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Lakhdar Criticizes TV Coverage of UGTA Meeting

LD1201111590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] concluded its consultative conference at the Palais des Nations yesterday evening by adopting a resolution stressing that the UGTA has very effectively contributed to the implementation of the socialist revolution and to establishing its bases. The resolution pointed out that the UGTA will continue to confront all conspiracies against the gains of the workers.

The resolution pointed out that in the face of the current situation, which is characterized by new political, economic, and social events, this trade union organization should revise its political character and reiterate its positions very clearly on the changes in the national arena by adopting positions that respond to the workers' preoccupations and aspirations.

Starting from the new political situation, which is distinguished by the existence of a multi-party system, and to preserve the workers' unity and the status of the UGTA within this new situation, it is imperative that the UGTA should divorce itself from any political party or any outside control.

The resolution stressed that the UGTA should be a social force on the government in order to implement the union's program, because social and political peace requires the authorities to respond to the concerns of the workers. The preservation and defense of the public sector makes its necessary for the UGTA to participate effectively in the life of the [industrial] organizations. In the private sector the UGTA should work toward protecting the financial and moral rights of the workers.

The UGTA stressed that it is a democratic organization based on work, rejects violence and racism, and works consolidating economic and social development and national independence.

After the end of the consultative conference, UGTA Secretary General Taieb Lakhdar held a press conference, which we review with [correspondent] Aisha:

[Aisha] Mr Taieb Lakhdar, UGTA secretary general, expressed his satisfaction with the results of the conference, even if the results should have been better. He pointed out that a democratic atmosphere prevailed throughout the conference and stressed that the general discussions were characterized by understanding, conviction, and a forward-looking outlook on the part of the UGTA.

He said: We are always working toward narrowing the gap in every dispute. He pointed out that the coming UGTA Congress will be held next June, and an open list will be used in it, with representation in it on a democratic basis stemming from the wide participation of the grass roots.

He criticized some practices, which he described as irresponsible, by some workers in the television organization because they did not relay the actualities of the conference from within the hall, and because their work behind the scenes led to some problems.

In this context, we recall that the television workers delegated to cover the conference were exposed the day before yesterday to assault behind the scenes by some participants in the conference. This led to a kind of solidarity among the rest of the delegates participating in the conference, and they launched campaigns against the press and media accusing the journalists of bias and dishonesty in conveying the news. This position displeased the journalists delegated to cover the actualities of the conference.

It is noteworthy that the conference witnessed yesterday evening the withdrawal of the delegation of Tizi Ouzou in protest against the delegates' attacks against the journalists, especially the television, and also against some other forms of behavior to which the members of the delegation were exposed. They stressed that they were prevented from expressing their opinions on some issues and that they were subjected to false accusations. After contacts by Mr Taieb Lakhdar with the members of the withdrawn delegation, they returned to the meeting while stressing their insistence on their stance. It was also noticed that some verbal disputes occurred behind the scenes among the conferees.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Returns From U.S., Makes Statement

NC2201191890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo this evening, following a 6-day visit to the United States.

Upon his arrival, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the goal of the visit was to discuss two issues with the U.S. Government: the peace initiative and relations between Egypt and the United States on the one hand, and relations between Egypt and international organizations on the other.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said contacts were made at various levels, adding that he had delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The members of the Egyptian delegation held a number of meetings with U.S. officials, members of Congress, and officials of the IMF and the World Bank. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid described these meetings as useful, adding that the delegation members explained the Egyptian viewpoints and plans in the economic field.

He added that the constructive Egyptian steps were highly appreciated by IMF officials, who will visit Egypt soon for further negotiations.

On his meeting with James Baker, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said he sensed that Baker is insisting on his proposals and that he is eager to give momentum to the Middle East peace process. He remarked that Baker's stand is a positive one which Egypt encourages and appreciates.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added that if the Egyptian, U.S., and Israeli foreign ministers hold a tripartite meeting in Washington as agreed, it will be followed by an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, thus continuing along the course which began a few months ago when the peace initiative was accepted. He pointed to current contacts between Egypt, the United States, and Israel on this issue.

On his talks in the United Nations, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid explained that he had discussed Middle East issues with Javier Perez de Cuellar, as well as the latter's visit to Egypt.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid described the Egyptian delegation's talks with the IMF director as useful and productive. He expressed satisfaction with the good atmosphere which prevailed throughout the talks.

Responding to a question on the terms set by the IMF, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said the IMF has certain views, rather than terms. These views are being discussed between Egypt on the one hand and the IMF and the World Bank on the other. He described the ongoing dialogue with the IMF and the World Bank as constructive and marked by understanding of each other's viewpoint.

Minister Comments on Possible U.S. Aid Reduction

NC1901092990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has expressed his belief that the U.S. Administration will maintain the present level of U.S. aid to Egypt, which totals around $2.3 billion a year, despite the demand of some Congress members to reduce it by 5 percent.

The minister said that U.S. Administration officials are fully convinced of the need to help Egypt. This is because Egypt is playing a basic part in achieving peace and strategic stability in the Middle East and Africa, on the basis of President Husni Mubarak's dynamic and leading role in resolving political crises in the region and solving the debt problem facing the African countries, and on the basis of the three axes of Egyptian policy: peace, development, and the strengthening of democracy.

In a statement to MENA, Dr Makramallah did not rule out the possibility of a reduction in the volume of U.S. aid to Egypt if the congress agrees on this. At the same time, however, he underlined the Egyptian economy's ability to tackle such reductions by redirecting resources toward development and by giving a strong push to increasing production and exports.

Dr Makramallah added that President Mubarak's instructions attach much importance and emphasis to the fact that solving the economic problem in Egypt should come from within and not from outside Egypt. Hence Egyptian economic policy at present is based on these basic principles defined by President Mubarak, he declared.

Soviet Envoy on Mideast, Relations With Israel

NC1501162690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr received Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev today. They discussed the Soviet stand on the Middle East issue, peace efforts in the region, and the results of Israeli Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman's recent visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

During the meeting, the Soviet ambassador emphasized that the Soviet stand on the Middle East issue is well known and has not changed: This stand is represented in the need to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He said that the Soviet Union has urged the Israeli leadership to change its current stand to a more realistic one with regard to the Palestinian issue so as to keep pace with the changes the world is now experiencing.

Asked about the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, the Soviet ambassador said that the Soviet Union is prepared to normalize relations between the two countries as soon as tangible steps are taken toward achieving peace in the Middle East. He indicated that his country supports any step toward finding a settlement to this issue.

Regarding the recent increase in the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the Soviet ambassador said that this happened after the recent decisions were made. These decisions stipulate that any Soviet citizen has the right to immigrate to any place. He affirmed that the Soviet state has no plan for Jewish immigration to Israel.

The Soviet ambassador also emphasized that Ethiopian-Soviet relations are good and friendly and that the Soviet Union will continue to extend aid to Ethiopia.

He said that it is important that efforts be made to settle the Eritrean issue. He added that there can be no military solution to the issue of the Horn of Africa, stressing the need for solving all problems peacefully.

AL-AKHBAR Views Measure To Halt Euphrates Flow

NC1801102090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR calls on the Arab League to intervene in order to avert any harm which may befall Syria and Iraq as a result of the Turkish decision to halt the flow of the Euphrates.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR expresses the hope that the Arab League will hold an emergency Arab summit, if necessary, to discuss this issue and adopted a unified stand to protect its member states and demonstrate collective Arab solidarity with both Iraq and Syria.

The paper says that no matter how the Turgut Ozal government in Ankara tries to justify this unexpected measure, at a time when Israel also is trying to monopolize Arab water resources and deprive the rightful owners of their water supply, the issue requires rapid and decisive action to reassure brother Syrians and Iraqis, whose lives are being threatened by the halted water flow.

The paper says that the sudden Turkish decision has certainly been the result of long and thorough study. Hence, it should have been deferred until due consultations had been held with Iraq and Syria and agreement reached on an acceptable formula to safeguard the interests of the three countries and spare them any possible harm. After all, the paper continues, it is a question of a vital source of life, or rather a matter of life or death for these two Arab countries, who have been harmed by that sudden measure on the part of a neighboring country linked to them by good ties.

Government Weighs Measures To Control Debt

JN1401191890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Jan 90 p 11

[Text] AL-AHRAM's economic page has learned that the Central Bank, in conjunction with the Finance Ministry, is considering the adoption of measures to control the domestic national debt by reducing the deficit in the general state budget and securing financing from assured sources for public spending in order to make a considerable cut in government debt.

According to Central Bank estimates presented to the authorities by bank president Dr Salah Hamid, domestic national debt for fiscal 1988/89 rose by 9.3 billion Egyptian pounds to 58.9 billion Egyptian pounds or by 18.7 percent, in contrast with the national external debt in foreign exchange. [sentence as published]

The bulk of the national domestic debt is in the form of government stock, revenues from investment certificates, alternative energy bonds, and development bonds, in addition to loans and facilities offered to the government, primarily loans amounting to 20.3 billion Egyptian pounds made available by the Social Security Authority and the General Corporation of Insurance and Pensions.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Former Polisario Members

LD1801134390 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Marrakech, Jan 18-(MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco Wednesday received here at the Royal Palace of Marrakech the citizens from the Saharan provinces who returned home after they abandoned the ranks of the "Polisario". The sovereign handed them on the occasion dahirs (decrees) of their appointment as new members of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs.

The new members of the council are: Mohamed Ali Admi, Noureddine Bellali, Maa Al-Ainine Mrabih Rabo, Ahmed Zini Berkini, Ramdane Ould Nass, Lali Ould Zergane, Abdelmaati Ould Brika, Tamek Mohamed Salah, Lamghifri Ould Ahmed Brahim and Mohamed Segaf.

In an address during the audience that was attended by the other members of the council who had earlier returned to Morocco, the sovereign wished welcome to "our sons who returned to the motherland and we have decided to receive you in this palace which belongs to every one".

"We decided to appoint you as members of the council to show once more that the motherland is clement and that your king is magnanimous and generous", the sovereign said adding that all the sovereigns of Moroccan dynasties have always scrupulously observed the tradition of the prophet and his ethics. [passage omitted]

The monarch added he appointed Mohamed Ali Admi (Omar Hadrami), former founding member of the "Polisario", as governor at the central administration of the interior department, and Noureddine Bellali, former representative of the front in Damascus, as counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The audience was attended by Premier Azeddine Laraki, speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman, adviser to the King Ahmad Reda Guedira, Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri, Minister in Charge of Saharan Affairs Khali Hanna Ould Errachid, Gen Abdelaziz Bennani, commander of the south military zone and other high ranking officials.

Founder Appointed Governor

LD1901182690 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Rabat, Jan 19. (MAP) "I think a united Morocco will make up a good Maghreb, a united Maghreb, and I think that the interest of the Saharan population is to belong to a greater Morocco to actively contribute to construction instead of maintaining tension", Mohamed 'Ali Admi told Radio France Internationale (RFI).

Admi, who was code named Omar Hadrami and who was a founding member of the "Polisario" [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], made the statement to RFI after he was appointed by King Hassan II governor at the central administration of the Interior Department. He was also appointed member, along with other Sahrawis, of the Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs.

He returned to the motherland after the call of the Moroccan monarch on all the Sahrawis to return to Morocco. Several other "Polisario" members had returned to Morocco after the call.

Admi added that "Morocco has showed good will in equipping and achieving socio-economic accomplishments in the Sahara and in opening its doors to its sons to listen to them and integrate them in Moroccan institutions".

On whether the self-rule referendum in the Sahara is still valid as a solution to the conflict, Admi said "yes, for Morocco needs an international guarantee to put an end to any contradiction concerning its sovereignty (over the territory). Hence, the referendum is welcome and is a solution to help the displaced populations living in Tindouf (Algeria) return" to the motherland.

"Morocco postponed by two years legislative elections to enable the UNO [United Nations Organization] to hold the referendum. I think, therefore, that Morocco is ready for the referendum and made this to speed up the process and put an end to the painful situation of our populations".

Justice Ministry Announces Amnesty for Prisoners

LD1001212190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Justice issued the following statement:

For the occasion of the glorious demand for independence anniversary, his majesty has issued instructions that on 11 January the remaining prison and detention sentences for 232 prisoners be dropped, that the remaining prison and detention sentences for 37 prisoners be reduced, that the full or remaining prison sentence for 10 prisoners be dropped while retaining the fines, that the prison sentence as well as fine for 7 persons be dropped, and that the life imprisonment for two prisoners be commuted to limited imprisonment. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Rebels Launch 'Futile' Attack on Juba

EA2201102790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A responsible source told SUNA that the rebel forces have bombarded Juba town in (?an attack) launched from a distance of (?120) km from [word indistinct].

Our forces returned fire and forced the rebels to flee from the area completely.

The source added that this was a futile attempt by the rebels aimed at raising their morale which had suffered serious [word indistinct] due to successive blows inflicted upon them by our valiant forces in [word indistinct].

Radio SPLA Notes Juba Attack

EA2201162190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Here is the latest news we have just received. SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] carried out massive artillery bombardment of military and other strategic installations inside Juba. Yesterday, Sunday 21 January 1990, forces of the Bright Star Campaign Phase One executed massive artillery bombardment of the southern capital of Juba, the second capital of the Sudan. All military installations, the airport, Radio Juba and fuel depots were targets. Radio Juba was narrowly missed. Civilians are advised to keep away from military targets. The artillery bombardment of Juba from both east and west will continue.

A force that was sent from Mafao [farm about 6 miles from Juba] to Gondokoro, from there try to attack SPLA positions, but the force was ambushed and dispersed, leaving behind a 106mm jeep and anti-aircraft 12.7 (Doshika) pick-up. The force did not stop at the Mafao—they ran straight across the bridge to Juba.

Khartoum's claim that they dislodged SPLA from around Juba are baseless lies and the population and the junta's soldiers should not listen to these fabrications. The SPLA tells you the truth. The bombardment will continue and Juba will be attacked. We are fully prepared.

SPLA Claims 'Part' of Yei Occupied

EA2201173690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces booming from Yei [as heard] have reached Sixth Station, 15 miles from Juba. The convoy that was going to Yei is besieged by other "Bright Star" campaign forces near Kagwada, and it will be dispersed.

Other "Bright Star" campaign forces continue to besiege Yei town, and have occupied and entrenched in part of the town. After the fall of Lassu and Tore, other "Bright Star" campaign forces are moving to Maridi, being joined by the forces of (Ali Batala) that must move immediately to Maridi from wherever they are. Both Yei and Maridi are threatened.

Government Convoy 'Pinned Down'

EA2201162790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces continue their advance towards Juba, and on Saturday [20 Jan] met a convoy from Juba going to rescue Yei, at Kagwada, 50 miles from Juba and 50 miles from Yei. The enemy convoy, code-named Usud al-Ghaba or Lions of the Forest, have been stopped, contained and pinned down, and SPLA forces in the area are converging on these toothless lions to destroy them and continue the advance on Juba.

Soldiers of this so-called Usud al-Ghaba are a rescue to nowhere [as heard]. Like Labbayka al-Sudan of Isaiah Paul, you do not know what and how many [word indistinct] lie ahead of you, and you have 50 miles to go to Yei. You better go back to Juba, to look after your families. If you insist on going to Yei, you will be surely destroyed.

Laoza, Lanya 'Captured'

EA2201141090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Two more garrisons fall to the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in western Equatoria.

The gallant forces of the "Bright Star" campaign captured Laoza, on the Zairean border, on Friday 19 January 1990. Laoza is a strategic border garrison 18 miles from Aba in Zaire, and 28 miles from Yei.

In the continuing offensive, "Bright Star" campaign forces overran another strategic garrison of Lanya, at 2200 hours on Saturday night, 20 January 1990. Lanya is 37 miles from Yei—on the Juba-Yei road, and had a force of about 250, most of whom fled towards Juba.

Tunisia

National Disaster Committee Meets on Flood

LD2301005190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2302 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Following the very heavy rains, especially in some southern and middle provinces, the National Committee for Combating Disaster, which was formed by the president, met this afternoon [22 January] under the chairmanship of Mr Chedli Neffati, interior minister, to monitor the situation in the concerned regions and adopt the necessary precautions to rescue the citizens. [passage omitted]

After reviewing the situation and assessing the requirements of the concerned regions, it was decided to consolidate the rescue equipment and preparations in order to support the intervention operations. It was also decided to evacuate the citizens from houses that are under imminent threat of collapsing as a result of the rain and to look into the necessary means to help the affected families, in addition to opening some of the state institutions and places to accommodate the affected persons if there is any need for that. [passage omitted]

We have learned that the rain has blocked access between Sidi and Bouzid province municipalities, and has isolated the province as a whole from the rest of Tunisia because of the floods in the valleys and the level of water in the roads. [passage omitted]

The governor of Sidi-Bouzid issued a statement calling on all the province's citizens to remain where they are, not to move, and to leave the houses threatened by the floods or close to the valleys and canals to the places allocated for their accommodation, under the supervision of the officials.

In the province of Medenine, after the recent rain, which exceeded the normal annual average, a number of measures were adopted to organize the intervention and rescue operation. In this province, one person is reported dead. He intentionally tried to cross the water in the valley of (Hasi Omar). Some slight damage was also recorded in a number of houses and schools. A helicopter, which carried out a reconnaissance flight along the shores of Medenine Province, was able to rescue two boats after they were exposed to a storm at sea.

Kuwait

'Unauthorized' Rally Dispersed; Five Arrested

LD2201221290 Kuwait KUNA in English
2003 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 22 (KUNA)—Security men Monday dispersed a crowd of people who tried to stage an unauthorized public rally in al-Farwaniyan at the diwaniya of one of the area's citizens, an Interior Ministry source said tonight.

As the crowd assembled at 7 a.m. Interior Ministry officials issued several warnings for people to disperse but the warnings went unheeded.

"This prompted the security authorities to disperse them and handle the situation," the source said.

Five people were arrested "when they tried to resist security men and prevent them from doing their job," he added.

One of the five detainees carried a knife and used it in attacking security men, the source said, adding that the authorities immediately began to interrogate the five.

"The Interior Ministry, while thanking citizens who cooperated with it, reaffirms that it will always work for maintaining law and order...", the source concluded.

Papers Criticize 'Inept' Rally, Urge 'Dialogue'

LD2301093190 Kuwait KUNA in English
0808 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 23 (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti dailies on Tuesday appealed to the public to resort to wisdom and abandon challenging the leadership which opened its arms for objective dialogue.

The newspapers' appeal followed last night's attempt to hold an unauthorised public rally.

AL-ANBA' daily criticized as inept Monday's endeavour to organize an unlawful political gathering in Farwaniya district, 15 km south of Kuwait city.

"We say it frankly that what had taken place yesterday is a blatant breach of the law and a flagrant violation against the genuine Kuwaiti spirit," the paper added.

It said such an awkward act could not be initiated by anyone who loves his country and loyal to his people and its soil by all means.

His highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in a nation-wide televised speech on Saturday reiterated his support for peoples participation and parliamentary life, stressing dialogue and not confrontation was the only means for achieving aspired objectives.

"We say to those who were left behind yesterday's events if you meant to close the doors of dialogue before they are opened... the people of Kuwait who believe in dialogue as a means of life and in consultation as a way for popular participation will not enable them to reach what they aimed at, because, to them, the homeland is precious than anything else," AL-ANBA' said.

"The dialogue called for by the amir must start and continue and it will not be affected by the behavior of a handful of irrationals whose narrow personal interest had blinded them fron seeing the interest of the homeland," the paper concluded.

Appreciating the state's call for dialogue, AL-SIYASAH daily said "the world's events had taught us that nothing could be handled with stubbornness and that who insist on it will only drag their country to the unknown."

"Let the starting point be dialogue... without preconditions and let us not impede a settlement already agreed upon," it said.

It said that authority had thrown open its door for dialogue.

"Let us go through that door and listen to more opinions, presumably there is some talk to be conducted behind closed doors in the interest of this country an its prosperity, opined the daily.

It said Kuwait had always been tackling its affairs with wisdom and quietness particularly those between the authority and some of its citizens, suggesting that everything could be settled through dialogue and logic.

"Everything is negotiable and debatable. Eventually, victory is for the logic and for observing the opinion of the majority. In view of these esteem political privileges, we wonder: What does the citizen of this state—which surpassed many difficulties—want as he is in the first place of her considerations," said AL-SIYASAH.

"Let us keep our country away from the unknown in order not to lose control on issues that start easy and will be difficult to settle," the paper concluded.

Paper Interviews Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf

PM2301111690 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
19 Jan 90 p 23

[Unattributed interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: How do you view the present situation in Lebanon?

Shaykh Nawwaf: The situation in Lebanon is very tragic and saddens us. We hope Lebanon will return to its previous status—and indeed to a better status—through the cooperation of all.

AL-HAWADITH: What is your impression of your recent visit to Egypt?

Shaykh Nawwaf: My visit to Cairo was at the invitation of my counterpart, Egyptian Defense Minister Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib. I met with many officials, foremost among whom was President Husni Mubarak, who expressed willingness to respond to any request submitted by Kuwait. My meetings with all the officials and brothers in Egypt were friendly and fraternal. I visited a number of military factories and expressed my pride in the the standard they have achieved, which is similar to that of the industrial output of the developed states—which makes every Arab proud. My visit was successful.

AL-HAWADITH: Does Kuwait cooperate with Egypt in the armaments field?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Cooperation exists between us, especially in the armored vehicles field. We have received most of our requirements for armored vehicles and tanks. There is long-standing cooperation between us in the training field.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the arms deal between Kuwait and the Soviet Union? Are there any Soviet experts in Kuwait?

Shaykh Nawwaf: There are no Soviet experts in Kuwait. However, there are instructors who hand over weapons to us and train our Army in their use for a short period of time. There also are courses for our sons in the Kuwaiti Army to study military sciences and train in the use of the types of weapons and motorized units we purchase from the Soviet Union.

AL-HAWADITH: Will the military law be amended, having been in effect such a long time?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Some articles will be amended, and we are preparing for that amendment to coincide with the modernization process, especially as the present army law has been in effect a long time.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there any plan to develop the naval fleet?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We always are ready to develop our forces—not only the Navy, but all military sectors. The supreme commander of the Army—the amir of the country—and his heir apparent devote all their attention to developing the military institution and securing its needs to raise the level and quality of its services.

AL-HAWADITH: How would you assess the recent Gulf summit resolutions, and is there any plan to develop the military cooperation experiment?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We always are in a state of permanent cooperation and coordination—and this was so even before the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] was established. Of course, cooperation and coordination have increased since the establishment of the council. Since official Gulf cooperation was established 10 years ago, the council's six member states have made long strides in the various fields of cooperation, including military cooperation.

AL-HAWADITH: Was the Austrian defense minister's visit successful, and has Kuwait been supplied with advanced Austrian weapons?

Shaykh Nawwaf: That visit was at my invitation. You know about Austria's honorable stands on the Arab issues, its continuous efforts for peace, and the friendship between Austrian President Waldheim and the amir of the country. As a result of all this, the visit was a success. Kuwait cooperates with Austria in the heavy military equipment field.

AL-HAWADITH: Have you sensed any positive development in the military conscription experiment since it was implemented?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Undoubtedly it is a successful experiment, very useful; it helps the Armed Forces and remedies much of the shortage of human resources which the forces used to suffer.

AL-HAWADITH: Have you benefited from the recruits in developing the military recruitment program?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We have benefited a great deal, to the extent that 80 percent of the shortages have been filled, and recruits have gained experience in the art and rules of combat. Recruits have become a reserve force which will perform the duty of defending the homeland when needed.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe development laws and regulations are consistent with the major role placed on the Kuwaiti Army's shoulders?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We focus first and foremost on our country's sons, because Kuwaiti men are our homeland's prime asset. The Kuwaiti Army needs experts and technicians in the training fields, and we bring them from the developed states, which are characterized by their varied military expertise. We also send our sons on training courses in these states, which include some Arab states. When they complete their training, they return to their country to apply the knowledge and skills gained there. Then they gradually replace foreign technicians under the plan of Kuwaitizing national cadres. We consider this an important and practical development of our Army and an endeavor to Kuwaitize the entire Army.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe Kuwait still needs a semi-military defense force to deal with citizens and respond to the call of duty?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Kuwait is a peaceful country. It does good and loves peace. It does not—nor does it want to—commit any aggression against anyone. It seeks to preserve its entity, future, and territory, whatever the price.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you intend to develop the Defense Ministry's administrative structure? If so, what are the bases of such development?

Shaykh Nawwaf: Yes, we intend, and actually have started, to develop the administrative structure.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there any intention to establish a military naval academy to provide the Armed Forces with officers and noncommissioned officers?

Shaykh Nawwaf: There are studies regarding establishment of such an academy. Some academies furthermore will be established within the GCC framework. Kuwait's share will be a land forces academy at the council states level.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the reserve service? Has a decision been taken to increase, reduce, or introduce some amendments to the length of service?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We provide the Interior Ministry with reserve recruits to help it remedy the shortage of human resources. We provide it with recruits from every group of graduates. We are anxious that the Interior Ministry receive its share from these groups. We now have a reserve brigade for which we are making appropriate arrangements so it can play its defensive role when needed, if the homeland—God forbid—is exposed to any danger.

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, what are the most notable outlines of the Gulf defense strategy?

Shaykh Nawwaf: There are matters that are not military. There are strategic defensive outlines stemming from political and diplomatic dialogue.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you at present have any plans to purchase arms from Arab or Western European states?

Shaykh Nawwaf: In the past we have concluded contracts with Arab and European states to purchase weapons and equipment. We have no hesitation at all in developing our Army's effectiveness or capabilities, experience, and work methods. We also diversify the sources of our arms according to our needs.

AL-HAWADITH: The Iraq-Iran war produced many negative aspects in the region. Is there any concern about these?

Shaykh Nawwaf: The Iraq-Iran war produced some negative aspects which affected the region as a whole. The region was harmed a great deal by that war—especially Kuwait, since some institutions and installations suffered sabotage. However, we are now optimistic security and prosperity will prevail in the region, an understanding will be reached between the two Muslim neighbors, and that current international efforts will succeed in bringing direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran, which will lead to an end to the vestiges of the war and to the spread of peace and security in the region.

AL-HAWADITH: There are fears of a resumption of skirmishes between Iraq and Iran, especially as Iran persists with stands Iraq rejects. In your view, could that lead to a resumption of the war?

Shaykh Nawwaf: I do not think so. In fact, I believe both sides wish to avoid a return to the war and to prevent any setbacks that could lead a resumption of the fighting. God forbid. Everyone now wants to end the effects of the war.

AL-HAWADITH: Army service requires loyalty to the homeland's territory, and there are those who speak about the issue of nationality, which some military personnel do not hold. What is your ministry's view?

Shaykh Nawwaf: We are in the process of preparing a study on that subject.

Yemen Arab Republic

Joint Meeting Results in Decisions With PDRY

JN2201211090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 90

["Text" of decisions issued at the conclusion of the first joint meeting of the two Councils of Ministers of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen conducted 20-22 January in Sanaa—read by anouncer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Decisions of the first meeting of the councils of ministers of the two parts [of Yemen]:

Pursuant to unionist efforts witnessed by the Yemeni homeland at all levels, and according to the press communique issued by the leadership of the two parts 24 and 26 December 1989 in Sanaa, the Councils of Ministers of the two parts of the homeland conducted their first meeting 20 and 22 January 1990 in the unity state of Sanaa to consider implementing tasks entrusted to them as called for by the communique, and have made the following decisions:

First, the Economic and Financial Committee: The two councils urge the committee to expedite completion of their work and make certain they turn their attention to completing the following laws:
a) The standardized tariff rate;
b) The Central Bank and unifying the currency;
c) Income tax and tax on earnings from work.
d) Commerical banks;
e) The general financial systems.

Subcommittees will complete these laws and regulations relating to merging the agencies and other economic establishments.

Second, the Education, Culture, and Information Committee: The two Councils of Ministers urge the committee to expedite completion of its program within the set period and to prepare the following draft laws:
a) Basic education law;
b) Public education law;
c) Specialized education law.

Concerning culture and information, the two competent ministers will have to devise a concept of application of the informational and cultural basics completed by the committees and to form technical committees to complete the systems and regulations related to merging the informational and cultural agencies and establishments in the two parts. The council of ministers tasks the ministers of information and culture in the two parts to work toward fostering the tourism industry by easing touristic and travel procedures for package tours and individuals, and increasing the state and private contributions to the touristic investments in various areas. The two television stations in the two parts must work to reach all the areas of the two parts of Yemen.

Third, the legislative and judicial committee: The two councils of minsters affirm the committee must expedite completion of its tasks and decide on fundamental legislation at its coming session, and must complete the following fundamental laws:
a) The judiciary law;
b) The penal law;
c) Penal measures law;
d) Civic law;
e) Commerical law and its branches.

The committee also must complete the other laws of the unity state.

Fourth, foreign affairs and diplomatic and consular representation: Procedures to be followed according to relevant agreements between the two foreign ministers.

Fifth, the concept of merging the ministries, departments, and corporations:
1. The committee of administration and public utilities will be tasked with preparing the law organizing the council of ministers so as to include regulating the ministries and their general terms of reference. The council of ministers incorporates [word indistinct] issuing organizational lists of the ministries, including issuing their organizational structure and reorganizing them according to cabinet decisions.
2. The committee will be assigned preparation of a standard list to organize ministries and other agencies.
3. The committee will task a subcommittee with preparing the draft systems and lists for the agencies affiliated with the state presidency. A subcommittee is also to be tasked with preparing a list to organize the general secretariat of the Prime Ministry and the Prime Ministry office.
4. The Council of Ministers proposes the unity state be made up of the following ministries:
1) The Ministry of Legal Affairs
2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3) The Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform
4) The Ministry of Security and Social Affairs
5) The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training
6) The Ministry of Finance
7) The Ministry of Interior and Security
8) The Ministry of Justice
9) The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
10) The Ministry of Education
11) The Ministry of Culture
12) The Ministry of Information
13) The Ministry of Transport
14) The Ministry of Reconstruction
15) The Ministry of Local Administration
16) The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources
17) The Ministry of Fisheries
18) The Ministry of Oil and Mineral Wealth
19) The Ministry of Electricity and Water
20) The Ministry of Public Health
21) The Ministry of Supply and Trade
22) The Ministry of Industry
23) The Ministry of Awqaf and Guidance
24) The Ministry of Planning and Development
25) The Ministry of Communications
26) The Ministry of Youth and Sports
27) The Ministry of Defense
28) The Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing
29) The Ministry of Tourism
30) The Ministry of Expatriate Affairs
31) Ministry of State for Parliamentary Affairs
32) Ministry of State for Cabinet Affairs

Fifth, work must be undertaken to merge the ministries, agencies and central public corporations. For this purpose, deputy ministers and under secretaries will be assigned the task of drawing up organizational structures of the ministries and other agencies with counterparts in the two parts [of the homeland] so they can merge into one organizational structure. The Ministries of Civil Service and Administrative Reform and the Ministry of Labor and Civil Service will draw up the organizational structures of the new ministries without counterparts in either part.

Sixth, the ministers of labor, civil service, and finance in the two parts will be charged with drawing up a system and laws to determine unified grades in the civil service, unify wages and grades, determine the job situation when they are (?tested) in the unity state, determine the laws of administrative organization and the mode of work and the rights of workers in various state agencies, as well as complete the other tasks approved by the administration and the public utilties committee that are part of their jurisdiction.

Seventh, each of the ministers will be charged with devising a concept of absorbing the workers within the framework of one ministry, their classification, and the determination of their positions.

Eighth, the ministries and institutions in the two parts which have no unionist committees yet are to make contacts so they can merge within a specified period.

Ninth, a subcommittee drawn from the ministries of labor and social affairs and civil service and administrative reform will prepare the following fundamental laws: a) generalizing civil service; b) social security law.

Tenth, a subcommittee is to be drawn from the general union of local councils, the Interior Ministry--the administrative units sector, the Ministry of Justice, the secretariat of the Cabinet, and the local government administration to prepare a draft law for the local government as a basis for the local authority of the state.

Sixth [as heard], the joint council urges the competent authorities to remove any obstacles or hurdles before the movement of citizens between the two parts via all points and to work to give their movement total freedom. The existing points will limit themselves to monitoring the commercial goods.

Seventh [as heard], the two councils discussed paragraph No 6 of the second article of the Sanaa press communique dealing with the laws and rules touching on the individual rights and liberties to expedite their unification, preserving the dignity of the Yemeni citizen and honoring the sovereignty of the law.

The two councils have reached the following decisions:

Concerning the laws and the rules: These have been compiled and the quarters related to them determined as follows:
First, the press and publication law. The ministers of information will be responsible for preparing it.
Second, the judiciary measures. The ministers of justice will be responsible for the competent committee expediting its completion.
Third, the penal code. The ministers of justice will be responsible for preparing it.
Fourth, the emergency law. The ministers of justice and interior will be responsible for preparing it.
Fifth, the law of unions and societies. The ministers of social affairs and labor will be responsible for preparing it.

Sixth, the prison law. The ministers of justice and interior will be responsible for checking it to ensure the safety of the citizenry. The two councils stressed the need for the penal code to incorporate a ban on any discrimination among citizens punishable by a fine under the seventh article of the unity state's draft constitution. They also set a 3-month deadline for completing the mentioned draft laws. Regarding some negative practices in violation of the existing laws, the councils have reached the following decisions:

First, the abrogation of all detention centers except existing official prisons according to the prison law in the two parts and police posts where custody in them should not exceed a legally-set period.

Second, the need for prison regulations to be checked to end any practices running counter to the constitution, specifically the practices represented in using cuffs or reprimands violating the basic rights of the citizenry.

Third, the need for compliance with the valid rules governing the summoning of citizens to the agencies of the state and that prohibit charging fees for [word indistinct] and taking disciplinary action against violators.

The two councils see the need for introducing laws to determine the legal and disciplinary punishment that should ensure an end to these practices and the punishment of their perpetrators. The councils also took up the subject of the right of the citizens to file complaints, and regarding this, recognize the importance of preparing a complaint system adhered to by all quarters. The councils also see the need for organizing the grievance committees' work in the agencies of the legislative power.

Eighth, [as heard] the two councils of ministers decided to immediately release all political prisoners. The attorney general and the state prosecutor in the two parts will oversee implementation of this decision. The ministers of justice will inform the prime ministers of the results.

Ninth, the two councils stress the political organization committees must complete their work by 20 February 1990, including initiating dialogue with the political organizations and national figures.

Tenth, the prime ministers in the two parts are authorized to form a qualitative committee chaired by the two deputy prime ministers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the two parts' experience in the economic, political, cultural, and social areas and in the field of democratic practice.

Eleventh, the two councils of ministers task all the ministers to continue to work pending completion of all measures related to drawing up the systems and laws and the plan of merging the agencies, corporations, and government departments in the two parts. The ministers also should follow up on completion and implementation of what was agreed upon in the minutes of the sessions during the meeting of the two councils in Sanaa, according to the decisions made by the two cabinets and the two political leaderships regarding this. It meanwhile was agreed the second meeting of the two councils of ministers will be conducted in March in Aden.

Yemeni Prime Ministers Conduct News Conference

JN2201215290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, [Yemeni Socialist Party] Political Bureau member and prime minister of the southern part of the homeland, this afternoon conducted a news conference. It followed conclusion of the first meeting between the councils of ministers of the two parts of the homeland. Correspondents for local, Arab, and foreign newspapers and news agencies attended the news conference.

Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani delivered a speech welcoming the brother journalists. He said: This press conference comes after conclusion of the first joint meeting by the two councils of ministers in implementation of Aden's historic agreement and the press statement issued following Sanaa's summit conference.

The brother prime minister added: The joint council of ministers met to discuss specific tasks mentioned in the press release, and a number of resolutions resulted.

Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man then reviewed what the meeting achieved. He said: We can say today we achieved a great feat. In fact, this was accompanied by enthusiasm from the brother members of the council of ministers, the unity committees, and the subcommittees that worked hard during the past period to achieve that accomplishment.

Nu'man said in the past 2 days, the two councils of ministers discussed an agenda full of topics entrusted to them by the political leadership of the two parts of the homeland in implementation of the Sanaa press statement, issued in December 1989, and Aden's historic unity agreement. He also said everything included in the agenda has been taken to the implementation phase.

He added: We can say the unity committees have done a good job during the past phase and accomplished many of the tasks entrusted to them. Some committees have even accomplished all of their tasks.

Nu'man said the council of ministers has specified the issues it must complete before unity is proclaimed in November 1990, especially laws essential for unity. These laws concern merging the different institutions—particularly the ministries, the central organs, and the government establishments—whose merger symbolize the birth of Yemeni identity, the state of unity. Nu'man said: We now come to the first point concerning completion of laws by the different committees. The Economic Committee was requested to complete laws on the standardized customs tariff rate, the Central Bank, unifying the currency, the income tax, the commercial banks, and the different financial systems within 2 months. The committee was asked to set up subcommittees to help it accomplish its tasks. The same goes for the Committee of Education, Culture, and Information, which was requested to complete the laws necessary in the educational field—the laws relating to basic, public, and specialized education.

Dr Nu'man said there were many tasks the committee was asked to complete during the forthcoming phase.

Nu'man said, regarding the Legislative and Judicial Committee: The committee was asked to complete laws required for the state of unity. These are the judiciary, penal, penal measures, and civic laws, and commercial law and its different branches. These laws were considered essential, and have to be completed within the specified period. The same goes for the other committees.

Nu'man said, regarding the Committee of Administration and Public Utilities: We discussed within this context the means to merge the different organizations. We also discussed what ministries will compose the cabinet of the state of unity. A lengthy discussion was conducted on this point, and an agreement reached to make up the state of unity of 33 ministries.

Nu'man pointed out the legal issues were discussed on the premise the state of unity must be the state of law, and therefore must pay great attention to the judicial aspect. He said: The Committee of Administration and Public Utilities also was asked to complete the council of ministers law, which will regulate the way ministries and government institutions and agencies are organized through organizational lists approved by the council of ministers in the state of unity.

Brother Nu'man also reviewed the other subjects discussed during the joint meeting, and asserted completion of these great tasks is not the duty of the administrative leaders alone, but that different Yemeni specialized cadres must be involved practically in these tasks, which must be fully and quickly completed.

Nu'man said the trends and resolutions which emerged from the first joint meeting of the council of ministers are very important, strategic resolutions, necessary to speed up accomplishing that great historic achievement—the state of unity.

He said discussions during the meeting were very serious and responsible and showed a great concern by members of the two councils.

Dr Nu'man said a working team has been formed, chaired by the two deputy prime ministers, to study the economic situation and the economic, democratic, and cultural experience in the two parts to benefit from the positive points and draw lessons for the state of unity.

In conclusion, brother Dr Nu'man praised efforts by brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the two ministers of state for unity affairs, and the Secretariat of the two Councils of Ministers to prepare and pave the way for this successful meeting. He said: The future and the way to apply the important agreements and steps we have reached remain before us. This makes it incumbent upon us to continue efforts to secure our natural march toward unity.

Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man then answered questions posed by the press and local, Arab, and international news agency correspondents. These questions dealt with the various aspects of the unionist action and the advanced phases accomplished for proclaiming the Yemeni state on 30 November 1990.

They also dealt with the overall future steps related to final arrangements and drafting of the legal, economic, social, democratic, and political bases; the nature of tasks assigned to the various unionist committees. They dealt with the period specified for concluding these national tasks, aiming to complete the remaining subjects assigned to the two councils of ministers to achieve the final merger of ministries, organs, institutions, and bodies of the state of unity in implementation of the historic Aden agreement and the Sanaa press statement issued after the summit meeting between the two parts' leaders last December.

Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and member of the Standing Committee, thanked brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister of the southern part of the homeland, on behalf of the brother journalists for giving them this opportunity and for their frank and clear answers to all questions posed during the news conference.

Attending the news conference were brothers Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee; Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of state for union affairs in the southern part of the homeland; and a number of officials.

Press on Iran's 'Intervention' in Soviet Affairs

JN2201112090 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 22, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said that the Iranian open intervention in the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic's internal affairs came in line with the approach pursued by the ruling circles in Iran.

In its article published today, the paper said that the Iranian tendency which was at variance with international rules and norms of the good neighbourliness had historical signs increased since 1979 and so far.

The neighbouring countries such as Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Arab Gulf countries had suffered from the Iranian sinister tendency and conducts in various forms.

After its debacles in the battle fronts at the hands of the Iraqis, Iran had prepared itself to play its flagrant role in heating and stirring up the internal conflict among the nationalities of the Soviet Union and adding new burdens on the tense situation there.

The paper referred that what was happening in the Soviet Union was an internal issues and could be solved by the Soviet people, according to the nature of the prevailing relations inside the Soviet Union. Thus Tehran rulers should perceive this reality and deal with it pursuant to rules of the international relations.

AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad unveiled the Iranian role in encouraging the separatist and ethnic movements and stirring up the situation in Azerbaijan in particular.

In its article, the paper said the Iranian regime's conducts and practices versus Caucasus had underlined that there was an Iranian role involved in these events. Referring that Iran had established reception centers off the border areas with the Soviet Azerbaijan and Tajikistan Republics.

The paper also referred to an article published by the Soviet IZVESTIYA daily in which it said that Moscow had information on preparations to smuggle a shipment of arms and ammunition from Iran into the Soviet Union through the illegal movement.

The paper concluded the article saying that the results of the gain [as received] played by the Iranian regime in intervening in the Soviet Union's internal affairs would be certainly reflected on Iran's fragile internal affairs.

Turkish Petroleum Official Arrives on Visit

JN2201145390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 jan (INA)—Uzur Altan [name as received], chairman of the Turkish Petroleum Corporation, today arrived in Baghdad leading a delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Turkish official said that he will hold talks with officials in the Iraqi Ministry of Oil on ways of bolstering ties of cooperation between Iraq and Turkey in petroleum and technical fields.

Deputy Prime Minister Hammadi Leaves for Paris

JN2301093490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi left Baghdad today for Paris at the head of an official delegation on a visit to France.

During the visit, Hammadi will hold talks with French officials on ways to promote relations of cooperation between the two countries.

Foreign Minister 'Aziz Meets Congressman Dymally

JN1501201290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today U.S. Senator Mervyn Dymally, who is visiting Iraq. During the meeting they discussed relations between Iraq and the United States and a number of issues of mutual concern.

The Foreign Ministry's under secretary, heads of the Foreign Ministry's international organizations and conferences department, the first political department, and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Contract Signed To Export Transformers to USSR

JN1901104090 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 10 Jan 90 p 7

[Text] The al-Qadisiyah public establishment for electrical industries in Diyala has signed a contract to export 2,000 electrical transformers to the Soviet Union.

The $6.25-million deal is part of the company's $25-million export plan.

The establishment's director general, 'Isam Muhammad 'Ali, also said a contract had been signed with a major French company to set up a joint Arab venture to produce electrical switches for electric power stations. The establishment will hold 75 percent of the shares. The production, he added, will meet Iraq's needs, and a surplus 25 percent will be exported to neighboring Arab countries. He said local industrialization in the venture will amount to 85 percent, and added Arab participation will be through the Arab company for industrial investment.

Shamir on Deportees, U.S. Aid, Likud Support

TA2201183590 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Eli Nisan in Jerusalem on 22 Jan—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Mr Prime Minister, yesterday there was yet another incident on our northern border in which an officer was killed. How does Israel react to these recurring incidents?

[Shamir] Israel has a very grave view of them. These incidents damage the stability and security of these areas, and also get our best men hurt. Israel will not tolerate these incidents and plots against us. We will do everything within our power to hurt those people who attack our men.

[Nisan] Mr Prime Minister, there are reports a solution has been found for the participation of deportees in the Palestinian delegation. The idea raised mentioned a name-bank of candidates. The remaining question is about participation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections. Could you confirm this report?

[Shamir] All that you have mentioned is nothing but speculation and rumor. No one made such decisions or proposals. They do not exist.

[Nisan] Although we have heard comforting remarks from Washington concerning U.S. aid to Israel, President Bush supported Senator Dole's positions. Do you see any link between this position and what is known as the political freeze in our region?

[Shamir] I do not think there is any kind of link between the long-maintained aspiration of the U.S. Administration to have more freedom in its allocation of foreign aid, and the actual political problems of our region. I do not think there is any such link. The U.S. President always has maintained the Congress and Senate should be given more liberty in determining U.S. support and aid. That is why there is no need to connect these two unrelated issues.

[Nisan] About the upcoming Likud Central Committee session in February, are you expecting to get the full support of the Likud Movement on the peace process in our region?

[Shamir] First of all, the Likud Central Committee already has decided in its last session it supports the peace initiative as endorsed by the Israeli Government on 14 May. So, I do not need its reconfirmation. Still, I will want to have Likud Central Committee support for the prime minister's political position and activity.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 22 January carries Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen's report on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. "Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen asked the prime minister: Where are you leading this nation? The prime minister's remarks were unambiguous. You know where I am leading: to secure a Greater Israel, living in peace with its neighbors. The prime minister said he does not agree the peace process is stalemated."]

Threatens To Resign

TA2201141490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by Dov Gilhar—recorded]

[Text] [Gilhar] Some 2 weeks before the Likud Central Committee session, Prime Minister Shamir threw all his weight behind the struggle between the camps expected in this session. Today, as a form of tactics or perhaps stating his true intentions, Shamir declared his intentions if the Likud does not support him in the Central Committee session.

[Shamir] Well, I believe this is a very hypothetical and theoretical question. It is clear, however, that if the Likud Central Committee does not support me, I would not be able to head the Likud or remain as prime minister.

[Gilhar] Shamir and the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today discussed, among other things, the detention and release of Faysal al-Husayni. Rejecting claims the detention was for political considerations, Shamir says:

[Shamir] There were no political considerations. I did not know of his detention.

[Gilhar] The prime minister was asked whether, in his opinion, the Americans are losing patience with the peace process in wake of a statement to that effect issued by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman.

[Shamir] In the past few days, we have heard he is not all that impatient, that he is willing to go on. I believe every now and then a politician may say he is impatient, if he wants his counterparts to speed up their decisionmaking process or their participation in the political process.

[Gilhar] Shamir thus referred to James Baker's comments.

In the committee today, a claim was made against Shamir alleging he is responsible for killing the peace process. Here is his reaction.

[Shamir] I can say these are evil tongues speaking. The remarks are totally unfounded. Those who make such statements ought to be ashamed of them. I am for peace; I aspire for peace just as, in fact, does every Israeli. I will do everything within my power to make sure the State of Israel and Eretz Yisra'el lives in peace.

Sharon States 'Principles' for Likud Unification

*TA1701184890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
17 Jan 90 p A8*

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon made clear yesterday to members of the Likud Central Committee that if the committee unites around several principles in its 7 February session, a series of votes could be avoided and a single vote could be conducted to ratify them. The principles Sharon is proposing are: an unequivocal decision to eliminate terror and violence throughout Eretz Yisra'el; an agreement not to enter any kind of talks as long as violence and terror continue; a clear statement to the world Jerusalem forever will remain Israel's capital, never will be subject to negotiations, never will be under foreign sovereignty, and East Jerusalem Arabs will not take part in the elections.

Sharon, Central Committee chairman, hosted in his Jerusalem office 60 veteran Central Committee members from Jerusalem, in the framework of the campaign run by the constraints ministers' camp to clarify its ideas and positions, considering the impending committee session. Sharon lashed out at his party members who claim the constraints ministers are guided by personal ambition, saying: "This is nonsense."

Minister Sharon said a resolution must be passed saying the Palestinian delegation will not include members who view the PLO as their legitimate representative. "The lie that started with the term PLO-identified must be aborted."

Sharon will host other Central Committee members in his office today, and tomorrow he will conduct two meetings in Tel Aviv. The next day he will meet with members from northern Israel.

Shamir Leads Nation Toward 'Greater Israel'

*TA2201142990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 22 Jan 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said it is not the first time we have had a dispute with the United States, and in the past there even has been an embargo. The prime minister asked in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: Did that cause us to change our positions? Do not threaten us by telling us about the various existing positions in the United States, Mr Shamir said. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen brought us Mr Shamir's remarks.

Tehiya Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen, using the Latin words quo vadis [where are you going], asked the prime minister where he is leading the nation. Mr Shamir responded by saying: You know where I am going, I am leading in the direction of Greater Israel.

Shamir, Peres, Rabin Approved PLO Contacts

*TA1901123890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
19 Jan 90 p A11*

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Upon returning yesterday to Israel, Dr Ahmad al-Tibi said he had received permission from Minister Weizman to hold contacts with the PLO and had acted with Weizman's approval, stemming from his authority, after being approached by a senior PLO figure—apparently, Yasir 'Arafat—who asked him to mediate between the sides on the question of the POW's. According to Al-Tibi, Israeli approval had been coordinated with the POW committee overseen by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Al-Tibi claimed he had been unwillingly drawn into the Israeli political limelight, which almost led to a government crisis. "I wanted to contribute my share to the political process quietly and modestly," Al-Tibi said, rejecting allegations he had done everything to publicize his involvement in the media.

Al-Tibi refused to confirm he had been in Tunis. "Evidence I was there is circumstantial. A high-ranking Palestinian figure approached me, and said he wanted to discuss the question of the POW's. I was asked to tell Weizman they wanted to open negotiations through me, and Weizman agreed at once. I told him: Good for you. But the PLO wanted Rabin's agreement on the issue, and Weizman said to me: Rabin, Peres, and Shamir also will agree; and indeed, their approval came through."

As an Israeli citizen, Al-Tibi said, I do not feel the meeting represented a violation of the law. I acted with Minister Weizman's approval, and it is within his authority to grant me permission to confer with the PLO figures I wanted to meet.

According to Al-Tibi, the talks dealt only with the question of the POW's, and Weizman sought Rabin's approval on the matter more than once. This is a complex and difficult issue; I did not know how difficult until I started dealing with it. All sorts of factions, sensitivities, prestiges, and political considerations of all sides are involved. The action of the Israeli side for the sake of the POW's is admirable, Al-Tibi said.

Weizman Investigation Ordered Despite 'Risk'

*TA2201121990 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
22 Jan 90 pp A1, 2*

[Report by Barukh Me'iri and Yosi Levi]

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish has ordered the police to launch an investigation into Minister 'Ezer Weizman's contacts with PLO officials. Authoritative police sources informed MA'ARIV yesterday that the material will be handed over to the police within a few days. Harish refused to comment on the matter.

MA'ARIV in addition has learned the attorney general met with Minister Weizman during the last few days and discussed the matter with him. Harish made it clear to Weizman the material in his possession, which he received from the prime minister, leaves him no choice but to order the police to investigate the matter. According to police officials, the attorney general feels the data collected so far is enough to warrant an investigation.

Minister Weizman is suspected of violating the Amendment to the Antiterror Act, which bans any contacts with a terrorist organization—including the PLO—without government approval. Minister 'Ezer Weizman is suspected of conducting meetings with several people considered to be senior PLO officials, in addition to his meetings with Dr Ahmad al-Tibi.

Harish stressed his decision was reached after long and difficult consideration. One of the major problems he faced was the sensitivity of the security issue. It was feared the order to open an investigation could paradoxically constitute a security risk by exposing sensitive security matters, including the modus operandi of Mosad and Shin Bet agents in Israel and overseas. Following the exposure of the affair, concern was voiced the security services would be compelled to stop the work of several agents, out of fear their covers had been blown. The attorney general discussed this matter with the police commissioner and other senior officers.

Al-Husayni Claims Arrest 'Politically Motivated'

TA2201114890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpts] The large number of journalists who were awaiting Faysal al-Husayni near the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem actually forced him to convene a news conference. Al-Husayni told the journalists he was not aware of any foreign countries interceding in his behalf and emphasized in his opinion, his arrest was politically motivated.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] I think, as I thought from the beginning, the arrest was not due to any violation of the law on my part. The entire affair was politically motivated; to wit, they could not prove anything against me, and all their efforts to arrest the peace process failed. As you see, I continue to work for peace. I am not in prison; I am free. I am working and will continue to work more intensively for the sake of peace.

[Amir] Was the Israeli legal system right in releasing you today on bail?

[Al-Husayni] I do not know whether the legal system was involved. I did not appear in court. The investigators determined there was nothing against me, and they let me go. [end recording]

Al-Husayni pointed out the treatment he received from his interrogators had been reasonable, no physical pressure had been exerted on him, and he had not suffered any bodily harm.

Al-Husayni's attorneys were taken by surprise this morning when the police decided to let him go. According to lawyer Jawad Bulus, Al-Husayni was arrested on suspicion of being a member of and rendering services to an illegal group. [passage omitted]

Seated by Al-Husayni at the news conference were Knesset Members Muhammad Mi'ari, 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, and Hashim Mahamid. Al-Husayni reiterated he would pursue his activities on behalf of just peace.

Editorial Warns USSR on Jewish Immigration

TA1801162190 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jan 90 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Frank Talk With Friends"]

[Text] Candor and frankness require that one say the influx of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel—whose number Israel hopes will reach 750,000 during the next 6 years—coupled with the remarks of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in which he revealed his intention to settle the refugees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, not only poses a grave danger, but harms the Palestinians' demographic situation. The Israelis always have viewed the demographics as a time bomb that will explode and threaten Israel's existence. This influx also constitutes a free reward to Shamir, who in his ideas and plans, still is far away from the real requirements of peace. The peace process never can achieve its desired objectives without a commitment to these requirements by all parties concerned in the conflict.

In the face of these dangers threatening the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, as well as security and stability in the region, effective Arab action must be taken to explain these dangers to the Soviet friends, as well as the negative effects the immigration of Soviet Jews will have on the future of peace and stability in the region and the world.

It is inconceivable the Arabs would see the sudden danger threatening them without rising to exercise their legitimate right of self-defense, a right guaranteed them by international laws and regulations. If the Arabs continue to display apathy and respond only with weak rhetoric, the day will come when they will find out they are unable to defend themselves before the unexpected danger threatening their present and future.

While we appreciate the Soviet positions supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, at the same time we speak candidly and frankly with the friends to inform them of the dangers emanating from the present and probable influx of Jewish immigrants to

Israel, particularly as this influx is coming at a time when Israel is persisting in its intransigence and refusal to acknowledge the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and is continuing its policy of setting up settlements in the occupied territories.

Palestinians Urge Restrictions on Immigration

TA2201185090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A group of Palestinian public figures from East Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—including Faysal al-Husayni and Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami—called for imposing restrictions on Soviet emigration to the West, fearing the emigration of Jews to Israel will change the demographic status quo in the region.

In a manifesto sent to the foreign consuls in Jerusalem, the group called for assurances the new immigrants will not settle in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. They also fear the Soviet immigrants will be exploited for Israel's political purposes.

Commentary Hails 'Arafat 'Threat To Resign'

JN1901161890 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 19 Jan 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat and his aides during the past year occasionally have made veiled or unveiled threats to call a Palestine National Council [PNC] session to reverse the PLO's recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Israel's right to exist, and to call off the PLO decision renouncing of all forms of terror.

'Arafat apparently has concluded his threats are not being taken seriously by anyone, least of all by their target audience. Having reached this conclusion, 'Arafat seems to have upped the ante and therefore gone about brandishing the threat to resign.

The most recent issue of the Cairo news weekly AL-MUSAWWAR, quotes 'Arafat as threatening should the current peace efforts stall, he will call a PNC session where he would announce his resignation. Irrespective of the intended audience of 'Arafat's threat and its seriousness, perhaps his immediate resignation would amount to the best favor he can perform for the Palestinian people.

Better yet, he also could make all the elements of his organization quit without delay. Palestinian interests could not possibly be better served than for 'Arafat and his associates—who during the past decades have played fast and loose with the fate and the Palestinian problem—to resign en masse. This not only is because they are to be held responsible for a string of disasters that have befallen the Palestinians, or because they lack credibility and their hands are stained with innocent blood. It also is because they are inept and just cannot deliver the goods of peace and a realistic solution to the Palestinian problem. Their continued existence and that of their organization hence constitue a major stumbling block to a solution and the hoped-for peace.

Report on Spy Network, PLO-Hamas Coordination

TA2201122390 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jan 89 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Cairo by correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Text] The Fatah organization in Lebanon recently exposed a network of spies for Israel, Palestinian sources reported yesterday in Cairo. According to the sources, the network operated in south Lebanon; its members marked terrorist targets so the Israeli Air Force could achieve precision bombing.

In the past few days, PLO representatives have been negotiating with members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in an attempt to attain coordination between the two movements. This was reported by Palestinian sources in Cairo. The sources noted the aim of these negotiations is to bring the PLO and Hamas closer in view of possible progress in the political process.

According to the sources, it is unclear whether the heads of Hamas in Gaza have given their blessing to the negotiations or take part in them. The sources further reported 'Arafat has been trying to contact the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, which supports Hamas. Those leaders have rejected his appeals.

Fatah Victories in Union Elections Noted

TA2001083390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Fatah's supporters have gained a major victory in elections conducted yesterday by the physicians' association in Gaza: 9 of the 11 seats on its committee. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] gained only one seat, in contrast with the three it held in the outgoing committee.

Our correspondent notes the elections to the physicians association are the first group in a series of elections to trade unions in the Gaza Strip, and they are indicative of the ratio of power among the various groups there. Elections for the engineers association will be conducted this weekend and elections for the attorneys association soon will follow.

Jordan Reportedly To Release West Bank Funds

TA2201081590 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 90 p 1

["Exclusive" AL-SHA'B report from Nabulus]

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources in Amman the Jordanian Government, in coordination with the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee, has decided to unblock all the funds frozen upon the declaration of the decision to cut administrative and political links between the West Bank and Jordan at the end of 1988. The Palestinian affairs department of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry has begun disbursing the funds to municipalities, charitable organizations, and institutions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for them to spend on their projects.

It also has been decided to unfreeze blocked funds of those bodies in Jordanian bank accounts.

This measure was adopted as a result of the stifling financial straits being suffered by the municipalities, organizations, and institutions in the occupied territories.

Peres Departs for Meetings in CSSR, Cairo

TA2101111490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres left this morning for a visit to the CSSR. He will meet this evening with the prime minister in Prague. Peres will meet tomorrow with the Czechoslovak finance minister, with President Havel, and Mr Dubcek, chairman of the CSSR Parliament.

After concluding his trip to Prague, Peres will leave for Cairo. At Ben-Gurion Airport, Peres said it has been long since meetings between Israeli officials and the Egyptian leadership have been conducted. He pointed out his visit to Cairo was meant to evaluate the situation and find ways to further the peace process.

Havel Says Ties 'Next Month'

TA2201171790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] It just has been reported CSSR President Vaclav Havel told Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres that during the upcoming visit of Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in Prague, at the beginning of next month, diplomatic ties between his country and Israel will be reestablished.

Havel To Visit 26 Apr

TA2201182790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT

[Text] Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel will pay an official visit to Israel on 26 April. President Havel accepted an invitation from President Hayim Herzog and announced his decision to Vice Premier Shim'on Peres, who met with him today in Prague. Havel also said diplomatic ties between Israel and the CSSR will resume in 10 days. A ceremony marking the renewal of ties will take place during a visit to Prague by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Embassy in Ethiopia Opens After 16 Years

TA2201185490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Israel's embassy in Ethiopia was officially inaugurated today. Charge d'Affaires Me'ir Yafe, who was the last to leave the embassy in Ethiopia 16 years ago when relations were severed, hoisted the Israeli flag.

The Jewish community of Addis Ababa was present at the ceremony, and its representatives attached the mezuzah. The embassy was inaugurated by Yitzhaq Shelef, the Foreign Ministry assistant director general, the Foreign Ministry spokesman reported.

Envoy Comments on Arms, Emigration

EA2201205490 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 22 Jan 90

[From The "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Moves that have been going on for some time to reestablish relations between Ethiopia and Israel have almost come to fruition. They split in 1973 along with many other African countries over the Middle East war. But following an agreement in November, an Israeli flag is flying again in Addis Ababa this morning. And as well as deals on aid and trade, there are suggestions that some kind of arms agreement might be in the cards, along with a deal involving black Ethiopian Jews, the Falashas, wanting to go to Israel. On the line to Addis Ababa, Mark Doyle talked to Me'ir Yafe, the Israeli ambassador designate, and asked him about the possibility of an arms deal.

[Begin recording] [Yafe] I think that the Arab propaganda has been very active since the relations were reestablished, to try and, maybe, kick us out of this country, which is of special interest for the Arab countries in the area, in the region—the Arab countries around Ethiopia and some other Arab countries maybe farther off, like Libya for example. And I think that they have been beating the drum around this subject, saying that, well, as you have read it in various reports, that Israel is offering military assistance and hoping this is true propaganda, and I am afraid that they have been successful because you are asking—this is the proof—you are asking about it.

[Doyle] The reason I am asking, Mr Yafe, is that reports in THE NEW YORK TIMES yesterday, which isn't normally considered a tool of Arab propaganda, which said that Israel is or has supplied some (?cluster) bombs to Ethopia.

[Yafe] I do not think this is true. I do not think at all that this is true. I think this is just taking up Arab propaganda, which has been very active since November. I did not read THE NEW YORK TIMES report. I am just hearing it from you for the first time, but I think it is just a continuation of the Arab propaganda around the subject.

[Doyle] The implication of the report, I think, was that these bombs were being supplied, in some way, in exchange for Ethiopian Falasha Jews being able to leave for Israel.

[Yafe] Well, about the Ethiopian Jews, as we like to call them, and not Falashas—We have had some negotiations going on for some time, since a large number of Ethiopian Jews has left Ethiopia and reached Israel. And the Ethiopians have accepted, on humanitarian basis the reunification of families. This is what is happening, nothing else. Part of the family is in Israel and part has been left behind in Ethiopia, and the Ethiopian Government has agreed to this for humanitarian reasons for the reunification of families, and this is what is happening now and has been going on for several years now. It is not something new which is happening since the relations have been reestablished. It has been going on for several years.

[Doyle] Do you have an estimate of the number of Ethiopian Jews, or Falashas, who still remain in Ethiopia and who would like to go to Israel?

[Yafe] Well, you see, it depends on the families. If the families would like to be reunited, the initiative will be taken from the Israeli part of the Ethiopian Jews. Then this can be considered, and as I said, on humanitarian basis. I feel our estimate is that as we have about 17,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel, I would say that almost the same number of Ethiopian Jews are still in Ethiopia. [end recording]

Shahal to Belgium, Portugal for Energy Talks

TA2201102390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jan 90 p 2

[Report by Larry Derfner]

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal leaves for Belgium today to discuss with European Community leaders the integration of Israel's energy economy into post-1992 Europe.

Israel currently does not purchase energy resources from Europe, but Shahal recently said Israel should consider buying natural gas from Italy or France for use in power stations. Doing so would involve massive re-equipping and long-term investment.

While in Belgium, Shahal will sign joint venture agreements in the energy sector with the EC. Accords calling for Israeli-EC solar energy research were concluded during Shahal's visit to Italy about a month ago.

Later in the week, Shahal will travel to Portugal to meet with President Mario Soares. Last week, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was told by Soares in Lisbon that Portugal will open an embassy in Israel this year.

Shahal also will finalize agreements with Portuguese Energy Minister Luis Mira Amaral, who visited Israel last year.

Religious Affairs Minister on Visit to USSR

TA2201055890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer today begins a week-long visit to the Soviet Union. He will visit Jewish communities in Moscow, Leningrad, and other cities. The religious affairs minister will be the guest of the first conference of 102 Soviet Jewish communities. The conference is in Moscow. Minister Hammer is to meet with his Soviet counterpart, as well as the head of the Russian Orthodox Church.

'Human Rights Violations' Spurs EC 'Sanctions'

TA1901133790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] The EC is threatening to impose sanctions against Israel for human rights violations in the territories. The above was stated by the chairman of the EC council, the Irish foreign minister, to Knesset Member [MK] Shim‘on Shetrit during the annual European Parliament meeting in Strasbourg. Shetrit told our correspondent Israel is not doing enough to explain its positions. MK Amnon Rubinstein said he will submit a draft bill on implementation of the Geneva Convention regulations in the territories even during the current Knesset session. He claims the EC decision to discontinue scientific ties with Israel endangers Israel's economic future.

Drug Dealers, Users Apprehended, Sentenced

TA2001154890

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv ‘AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 14 January in a page 5 report by Yo‘av Aviv states "two teenagers suspected of selling drugs to school children in the Haifa area were detained for 7 days. The third suspect was released on bail."

"The three suspects arrived at an abandoned building to look for 4 grams of heroin they had hidden there. They did not find it and were detained on the spot."

Tel Aviv ‘AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 15 January, in a page 5 report by ITIM, says "Haydar Ibrahim Abu-Raqiyyaq, from the Bedouin township of Tel Shema‘, was sentenced to 6 years in prison in the Beersheba District court. He had been apprehended while in possession of close to 5.5 kg of heroin. The judge decided on the rather lenient sentence after becoming convinced the defendant did not intend to sell the narcotic, but merely had agreed to keep it in his flat."

Writing on page 1 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 16 January, the Knesset correspondent reports on a briefing to the Knesset anti-drug war committee by Dr Moshe Mashiah, director general of the Health Ministry. Dr Mashiah told the committee "at the moment there are 18,000 drug addicts, 35,000 drug users, and 5,000 users of drug substitutes in Israel." He also told the committee "there are 5,000 AIDS carriers, 13 percent of which are drug addicts."

Writing on page 12 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 16 January, David Rudge reports "Ten kgs of heroin were discovered in the car of a Negev resident stopped by police at a roadblock near Qiryat Shemona, 'Akko police revealed yesterday. Muhammad al-Kashar, 29, of Tel 'Arad has been remanded in custody pending charges of drug dealing. He was arrested at the roadblock two weeks ago, during which time a news blackout on the incident was in force."

Writing on page A11 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 16 January, Me'ir Hare'uveni says "policemen in the old city of 'Akko yesterday spotted a local 55-year-old Jew, known as a drug user and dealer. As he passed them, the man sneezed and a piece of aluminum foil flew out of his nose. The policemen picked it up and found that the man had been hiding 1.25 grams of heroin in it. The man was arrested and admitted to possession of the drug. It has been learned further arrests may be made following his interrogation."

IDF Conducts 'Successful' Search in Hebron Area

TA2001170790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] A large number of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces launched an extensive search last night in the Hebron Hills area. The search focused on the city of Hebron and the townships of Idnah and Yattah. Army sources said dozens of suspects were apprehended, some of whom had been on the wanted list for a long time. One of the commanders in the field told our correspondent Arye Gus one of the suspects apprehended was a wanted man who made the entire operation worthwhile.

Our correspondent reports crack units arrived last night in the villages. A Golani brigade soldier said the troops covered about 8 kilometers on foot, while setting up observation points from which wanted persons could be spotted. Some of the Arab youths who tried to flee to the fields were caught. A senior commander said the operation was very successful, and the troops seized cold steel weapons and great quantities of propaganda material. He noted not one shot was fired and there were no casualties.

Central Command Commander Yitzhaq Mordekhay said the IDF operation in the Hebron Hills area conforms with the Army's comprehensive policy of acting in isolated locations ,as well as places where the violence is high.

Suspected Collaborator Killed in Khan Yunus

TA2001183990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] In Khan Yunus, a 65-year-old man was shot and later died in hospital. Residents said he was killed because he was thought to have aided the Israeli authorities.

In Jerusalem's Old City, seven young men identified with the Kakh Movement attacked an elderly Arab. Police say they beat the 70-year-old man, kicking and punching him. A Border Police patrol arrived and arrested the alleged attackers. The elderly Arab was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 20 January adds: "Two incidents in which Israeli cars were stoned occurred this afternoon in East Jerusalem. The windows of two cars were shattered on the Ramot highway, while another car was damaged on the Ma'ale Adummim road. There were no casualties."]

Arab Suspected of 'Aiding' Authorities Murdered

TA2201200390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A 21-year-old Arab resident of Baytuniya near Ramallah was murdered on suspicion of aiding the Israeli authorities, local Arab residents said. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports the number of Arabs murdered by other Arabs for this reason now has reached 170, two-thirds of them murdered in the past year.

The Army today imposed a curfew on the village of 'Anabta in Samaria after increased stonings on Israeli vehicles. An Israeli bus carrying workers was torched this morning in Nabulus. In Hebron, two Israeli women were wounded when stones were hurled at a bus. A soldier was hit in the chin by a stone.

Bomb Explodes in West Bank; No Injuries, Damage

TA2001062590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] A home-made bomb exploded near Hablah in the Qalqilyah area yesterday when an Israeli vehicle was passing. No one was hurt and there was no damage. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the village and launched an extensive search to find whoever planted the bomb.

Incidents of 21 Jan in Territories Reported

TA2201130090 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Jan 90 p 7

[Report by Oren Kohen and Mikhal Qedem]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Arab sources reported three Arab residents were wounded yesterday in the Gaza

Strip: 6-year-old Ahmad Maharash from Jabalyah, who was injured in the head by a plastic bullet, and two youths from Rafah and Khan Yunus, who were wounded by shots fired at their feet. They were hospitalized in al-Nasir Hospital. According to other Arab sources, two youths were slightly injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in Khan Yunus and Rafah.

Masked men yesterday afternoon stabbed Muhammad Abu-Sha‘ban, a 50-year-old Gaza resident, wnen he was passing the Civil Administration building in Gaza. Abu-Sha‘ban was wounded and fled inside the Civil Administration offices seeking help. He was evacuated to a hospital in Israel and treated. According to Arab sources, the man is a known collaborator. [passage omitted]

The Ramallah military court yesterday sentenced 19-year-old Muhammad Abu-Sharar from the ‘Ayn Sultan refugee camp to 11 years in prison and an additional 5-year suspended sentence. He was convicted of hurling firebombs at an Egged bus and at the homes of local residents suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities, as well as of other serious crimes.

[Tel Aviv HA‘ARETZ in Hebrew on 22 January in a page A2 report by Yizhar Be‘er and Eytan Rabin adds "Arab sources reported disturbances in the al-Shati‘, Jabalyah, and al-Nusayrat refugee camps, as well as in the Khan Yunus and Rafah camps in the southern Gaza Strip, where clashes with IDF troops were reported."]

22 Jan Incidents, Curfews in Territories Noted

TA2201115390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by ‘Ido Shargil]

[Text] Today again an Israeli bus taking laborers to work was set on fire in Nabulus. The driver, an Arab resident of Gaza, reported that after he picked up laborers in the casbah area, masked men took over the bus. They ordered the passengers off the bus and torched it. The police launched an investigation.

In Hebron, an Israeli-owned bus was pelted with rocks. A window was smashed and two passengers were injured by flying debris. One of them was treated on the spot, while the other was taken to a hospital in Jerusalem for treatment of a facial wound.

The body of an unidentified Arab was found this morning in the village of Baytuniya, near Ramallah. The body was found with its hands tied and a rope around its throat. The police opened an investigation.

The curfew imposed on the al-Duhayshah refugee camp and the townships of Husan and al-Birah was lifted this morning. The villages of Biddu and Zawiyah remain under curfew.

1 Dead, 2 Houses Sealed in Nabulus General Strike

TA2301073890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] A general strike was declared this morning in Nabulus to protest the death of Musa Sa‘ad, who was shot by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. The 24-year-old Sa‘ad was suspected of being a member of a Nabulus strike committee. He was shot last night while attempting to escape from IDF soldiers who were carrying out an operation to detain suspects in the Nabulus casbah. Sa‘ad was buried early this morning, and later a general strike was declared in the city.

Our correspondent reports last night the security forces in Nabulus sealed the homes of two local residents suspected of membership in a Fatah squad. The security forces claim they were involved in several attacks on IDF soldiers and local residents suspected of collaboration with Israel.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 23 January reports "a private car belonging to an Arab resident of Jerusalem's Old City was torched last night at Bayt Hanina. This followed the burning of a car in the parking lot at the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus and attempts to set fire to two other cars parked nearby."]

Statement Condemns 'Illegal Practices' in W. Bank

JN2301091490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Israeli authorities have confiscated 2,838,358 dunums of Arab land in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip since the start of occupation following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, according to a statement by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs in Amman.

The statement, which summed up Israel's illegal practices in the occupied Arab lands, especially during the intifada, said that the Israelis had confiscated 45,740 dunums of land in the West Bank in November 1989 alone. Israel also plans to maintain confiscation policies with the aim of settling new Jewish immigrants. December 1989, which marked the end of the two years of uprising, witnessed an escalation of anti-Israeli protests in the occupied territories countered by stepped up repressive measures against the Palestinian citizens, said the statement.

The Israelis, the statement said, tried and sentenced 550 Palestinians to prison terms ranging from several months to 10 years, imposed fines on others, demolished 36 Arab homes and killed 29 Arab citizens in December alone.

The past month also witnessed stepped up Israeli efforts in enlarging Jewish settlements and creating new ones in the occupied Arab lands and the Gaza Strip. So far, Israel has built 174 settlements in the West Bank and 20 others in the Gaza Strip, according to the statement.

It said that the Israelis continued to build annexes to the existing settlements near Jericho and neighbouring regions, and that 300 Jewish families were preparing to move into newly-built settlements on the West Bank. In December, the statement added, all schools in the occupied West Bank were closed and the Israeli troops stormed three schools in Bethlehem, evicting students and turning the premises into military positions.

Editorial Blames U.S. for Israeli 'Extremism'

JN1501121590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jan 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Scattered Clouds in the Sky of U.S.-Israeli Relations"]

[Text] The discernible strain in U.S.-Israeli relations and the diplomatic reports about the presence of tension between the two strategic allies cannot be solely attributed to the increasing intransigence on the part of the Yitzhaq Shamir government toward the peace process. It is also a result of the policy of appeasement and blandishment that Washington has followed in regard to the continuing Israeli stands which advocate rejection and intransigence.

The United States, which has found that its peaceful diplomacy is foundering on the Israeli rock of uncompromising rejection, has, through its policy of connivance and bias, fed the Zionist extremist tendencies and opened the way to right-wing forces to continue to escalate the situation, commit crimes, and violate all norms and laws. For all these actions, the right-wing Zionist extremists received only some diffident reproach from the United States.

It seems that Israeli extremism, which has been feeding itself by itself, has reached a limit which led Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to reply to the U.S. suggestions on the possibility of Baker giving up the diplomatic process in the Middle East by a disdainful announcement which states that Israel, alone, will go ahead with the elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip without any consultation with the U.S. side.

In this regard, we are unable to comprehend how Israel's arrogant leaders could have reached this level of arrogance had it not been for the long history of U.S. tolerance and retreat whenever any of the successive Israeli governments used to escalate the situation. As a result, this policy encouraged more extremism and radicalism because it has not been met with the condemnation and denunciation it deserved.

The minor tensions in U.S.-Israeli relations and the scattered clouds appearing in the sky of these relations should not make us believe, even for a moment, that this time Washington is determined to employ a sufficient amount of its immense influence on Israel in order to make its extremist leaders give way to the continuation of the U.S. initiative itself. This, in turn, drives us to believe, according to our long experience, that the United States has begun once more to waste another available opportunity to establish peace in the region as a result of a policy that lacks wisdom, firmness, and farsightedness.

King Husayn on Jewish Emigration, Other Issues

JN2001195990 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated that the Palestine question is one of the most serious issues the world is facing and that the PLO has responded to all that was required from it by the world, that it has accepted the UN Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, condemned terrorism, and recognized Israel's right to exist. This, he said, facilitated discussion of the issue of the international conference to settle the Palestine question under the auspices of the UN Security Council five permanent member-states and the UN secretary general after bringing the views of Israel and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, close together.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR published today, his majesty rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements on Israel's need for all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories to receive Jewish immigrants whom Israel seeks to transport from world states to these territories.

His majesty warned against the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. He wondered: Whom will these thousands replace, and where will Israel push the Palestinian citizens who will be replaced by the Jews? He said that Israel does not want to open any dialogue with the PLO or relinquish a single inch of the occupied territories.

His Majesty King Husayn pointed out that Jordan is aware of Israel's tactics in claiming that Jordan is the alternative homeland for the Palestinians while the world's interest is occupied with other issues. He said he hoped that an Arab dialogue on the highest level will be held to discuss this and other issues to achieve integration among the Arab countries on sound grounds of mutual trust.

His majesty praised the successful steps being made by the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

Regarding the sporadic military incidents on the Jordanian border and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, his majesty said that Jordan is reorganizing itself and delegating responsibilities to those who can shoulder them under democracy and the unification of ranks.

His majesty called for a dialogue with the Arab brothers on the highest level, because the danger is not posed only to Jordan and Palestine, but also to the interior of the Arab homeland.

His Majesty King Husayn reiterated his support for the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee, hoping that its efforts will contribute to settling the Lebanese issue. He said that the hands that have been wreaking havoc on Lebanon are many. He urged that these hands be taken off Lebanon and called for holding Arab consultations on the highest level regarding the Lebanese issue.

He said that the Arab summit that was held in Morocco last May supported the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee's efforts, which assumed its responsibilities.

U.S. Sorghum 'Still Undergoing Laboratory Tests'

JN2001110590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jan 90 pp 1, 12

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Mumani]

[Text] Minister of Supply Nabil Abu-al-Huda has said that the sorghum fodder shipment presented as a gift from the United States is still undergoing laboratory tests and that no final conclusions have been reached yet regarding the fodder, which was recently brought to Jordan. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Abu-al-Huda added that three laboratories have made conflicting analyses on the usability of the fodder, and it is hoped that the laboratories will reach conclusions on which we can base our assessment. Abu-al-Huda said that the fodder should be given to livestock in certain proportions, ranging from 5 to 40 percent. Therefore, he added, if this scientific method is followed, there will be no danger to the health of the stock.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that some tests have proved that the shipment of sorghum fodder—which is used for feeding livestock and poultry—which amounts to approximately 236,000 tonnes and was given as a gift from the United States to Jordan, is neither usable nor compatible with specifications and contains a percentage of poisons.

The value of this shipment, which was offered gratis, amounts to $27 million, provided that the Jordanian Government pays sea freight charges.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that a part of the shipment has already arrived in the country and that the rest will arrive soon.

It has also been learned that the laboratory tests conducted on the fodder indicate that it is contaminated and poses a threat to the life of livstock and poultry if given as food to them.

It should be noted that livestock breeders in Jordan have begun to use the sorghum fodder recently. It is a good cattle feed when mixed with other ingredients as cows cannot digest it, even if it has been ground up, as it increases acidity in cows' bodies, reduces their milk production, and harms their health.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that this material or the hybrid red or white material were used as fodder and contain two poisonous elements. They are tannin and phytite [as published]. The hybrid process was carried out in the United States to improve the material, by which the poisonous element in it was slightly reduced.

Experts advise that sorghum in cattle and poultry feed mixture should not exceed 30 percent. Otherwise, poisoning will occur as happened in October last year. Tests proved then that the fodder was contaminated with clostridia, which leads to intestinal poisoning in animals.

Sorghum 'Not Poisonous'

JN2201075290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Initial tests conducted on sorghum samples used by local farmers to feed livestock indicated that the material is not toxic and is fit for animal consumption, according to Minister of Agriculture Sulayman 'Arabiyat.

The minister announced the initial results of tests conducted by a technical committee at specialised laboratories. He said there was no indication of any negative side effects on animals consuming the imported sorghum.

The minister said the committee comprised experts from the ministries of agriculture and supply and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) who were entrusted with supervising the tests. A full report about the sorghum will be published in the coming few days, he said.

The announcement came in the wake of complaints raised in the local press.

Ministry of Supply Secretary-General Radi Ibrahim said in a statement Saturday that the ministry had received no complaints about sheep or cattle being poisoned as a result of consuming the imported feed. A total of 120,000 tonnes of sorghum out of a consignment of 200,000 imported from the United States had been consumed, but the sole complaint of the farmers was about the relatively smaller quantity of milk produced from cows fed on the sorghum, according to Ibrahim.

Ibrahim said that the low amounts of milk resulted from improper use by local farmers. The feed should contain 40 per cent sorghum, 40 per cent barley and 20 per cent bran; otherwise milk production could be less than expected, Ibrahim said. Improper mixture of animal feed could also cause acidity in the milk, he added.

In his announcement Sunday, the minister assured local stock breeders that the sorghum used in the country was not poisonous. The minister supported Ibrahim's views about the mixture of the animal feed.

The minister also announced that Jordan had sufficient amounts of animal feed of all types in storage and efforts were being made to ensure the availability of 300,000 tonnes of sorghum on a permanent basis to ensure sufficient supplies for local farms.

The government, according to Ministry of Agriculture sources, now subsidises sorghum with 50 per cent of its cost.

Last April, the U.S. Feed Grains Council organised a grain sorghum utilisation seminar here in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply. The meeting covered aspects of sorghum usage for poultry and livestocks. Subsequently, the Ministry of Supply imported 200,000 tonnes of sorghum from the United States and distributed it to farmers in June last year.

Bodies Support Restoral of Kuwaiti Legislature

*JN2001162890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 Jan 90 p 1*

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—Heads and members of a number of organizations, societies, and professional associations have sent a cable to Ahmad al-Sa'dun, [former] speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, in which they expressed their brotherly solidarity with him and his colleagues in their legitimate democratic demands to restore parliamentary life in fraternal Kuwait.

The cable states: Popular participation in political life will protect the homeland, bolster its capabilities, and correspond to the spirit of the age, international developments, and the winds of change which blow on the whole world.

The cable was signed by a number of lawyers, doctors, engineers, journalists, and writers.

Committee on National Charter 'This Month'

*JN2201132390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Jan 90 p 1*

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Official sources have confirmed that no official applications have been submitted for establishing political parties. The sources said that a royal committee to draft the national charter promised by His Majesty King Husayn will be set up before the end of this month.

Meanwhile, Communist Party sources have denied that the party's name has been changed. The sources added that the party hopes it will receive an official permit to operate openly. The same has been said by a People's Democratic Party source.

Discharges Under Martial Law Reversible

*JN2001132290 Amman Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 20 Jan 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mudar Badran, has issued a circular to all government departments allowing the reemployment of all civil servants who have been discharged from government service for political reasons on the strength of martial law regulations.

Another circular issued by the prime minister revokes previous instructions that the appointment of new civil servants should be subject to the approval of the General Intelligence Service.

Employees Fired Under Martial Law Hold Meeting

*JN2201085790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
22 Jan 90 p 3*

[By staff reporter Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—People fired from jobs in the public and private sector held their first public general meeting Saturday [20 January] to aim their views about the "political reasons" behind their dismissal and the process of their reinstatement ordered by the government.

More than 200 people crowded into the al-Razi hall at the Professional Associations' Complex to draft and sign a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who earlier Saturday issued a circular to all departments approving the reinstatement of any citizen who lost his/her job by orders of the military governor (prime minister) under martial law provisions.

Acting in accordance to the circular, about 530 fired and rejected employees have submitted copies of their employement and dismissal letters to the Public Freedoms' Committee, which will forward them to the prime minister's office for the necessary action. The memorandum prepared Saturday was still in draft form Sunday. According to information available to the JORDAN TIMES, the document demands that the years employees spent out of service be considered part of their service for which they can claim pension. The document also demands that the dismissed employee, when reinstated, be given the same grade and salary as fellow employees whose services were not interrupted and that they be given full backdated salaries.

A general point raised during Saturday's meeting was that the government should "order" the reinstatement of the fired employees, rather than just "approve" it.

Lawyer Asmah Khadir briefed the gathering on the legal aspects of the issue and argued that the matter was political rather than legal.

"For a long time our society has endured the effects of martial law and citizens suffered from accusations, based not on certainty but on doubt, that they were politically active and disturbing the country's peace and security," she said.

According to Khadir, the long duration during which martial law was used led to "abuse of its provisions by the executive authority," and hundreds of private and public sector employees were fired. "These employees lost most of their rights, by being unable to contribute to their fields of speciality. They were also unable to prove their innocence, because decisions by the military governor could not be contested," she said.

"While Constitution provides for freedom of work and opinion, many citizens were deprived of this right or the right to resort to an ordinary judge to contest the administrative decision of dismissal," she argued.

The abolition of martial law must be followed by the elimination of its negative effects," she said. Khadir outlined three steps to achieve this goal:

—The governent should continue to implement measures to fulfil its pledge to completely lift martial law.

—The lower House of Parliament should not approve the issuance of a law which absolves those responsible for the dismissal of the employees, of their responsibility, until after the effects of martial law are completely eliminated.

Although the executive authority cannot oblige the private sector to reemploy the dismissed employees, it bears the responsibility to ensure that the concerned people are reemployed, the lawyer said.

"The private sector should be addressed by the two committees of public freedoms (that of the Professional Associations and that of the Lower House) so that they would reconsider the dismissal decisions," she said.

Khadir also suggested that the committee should attempt to inform the public, through the media or personal contact, of the current changes taking place in the domain of public freedoms in order to form an effective public opinion.

Prime Minister: 'Democracy Can Safeguard Jordan'

JN2101085090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Baghdad (PETRA)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran has expressed optimism with the democratic experience in Jordan and confidence that "this democracy can safeguard Jordan from any tampering or attempt to create internal rifts."

"Jordan's moves to ensure public freedom and hold democratic elections embarrassed the Israeli enemy to the point of fabricating allegations or using the infiltration of a recruit across the border to level threats," Prime Minister Mudar Badran said in an interview with the Iraqi AL-JUMHURIYAH daily published Saturday.

Badran criticised Israeli contentions that "Jordan is part of Palestine."

"Jordan is Jordan," Badran said. "This is not only our saying but that of the whole world's. Jordan is an independent and sovereign state and a member of the United Nations. The Arab Palestinian people in Jordan believe that Palestine is their actual homeland," Badran added.

Stressing that the day will come when the Palestinian people's rights will be restored, Badran said that "Jordan is confident that the Arab Nation will be along its side in the confrontation of Israeli threats."

Badran praised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative and called on Iran to positively react to the call "so as to genuinely serve the Iranian people."

Badran also welcomed the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) leaders who will hold their upcoming summit in Amman and praised the results attained through the meetings of the prime ministers of ACC countries held in Baghdad recently.

Exchanges of Fire Reported in Southern Suburb

NC2201163090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] According to security reports this evening, armed men exchanged fire in some parts of the Southern Suburb, especially in al-Shiyah and al-Musharrafiyah.

Meanwhile, other sources spoke of skirmishes on the al-Shiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah combat lines.

Syrian Forces Patrol Region

NC2201190090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tension prevails in some parts of Beirut's Southern Suburb in the wake of the clashes that took place in the al-Hajjaj, Mu'awwad, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, Mar Mikha'il Church, and Bisharah al-Khuri areas as of 1600 today. Automatic weapons and rockets were used in the clashes.

Amal Movement sources have announced that a cease-fire came into effect as of 1845 on the basis of an agreement reached with the Syrian Arab forces in the area. It has been learned that Syrian Arab forces have been patrolling the areas of the clashes since 1900.

Group Claims Bombing of Syrian Patrol

NC2201135590 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] In light of the Syrian occupation's efforts to control Lebanon and undermine its power to act independently, resistance operations against the occupier are growing and spreading from the north to al-Biqa', Beirut, and the mountain.

What is new in the resistance operations is the statement issued today by the Peaceful Liberation Movement [Harakat al-Taharrur al-Silmiyah]. The movement said in its statement that one of its heroic groups detonated an explosive charge in Tripoli today as a Syrian enemy patrol was passing. The enemy losses were not known because of the security cordon around the area thrown up by the Syrian enemy's intelligence, and the movement made no mention of any losses.

Meanwhile, informed sources have disclosed that the heroic attack on the Syrian occupation army's position in al-Rawshah left 11 Syrians dead and over 30 others wounded, and caused heavy damage to an ammunition depot. The sources said that the occupation forces surrounded the area and are continuing their storming operations and nighttime curfew in search of the attackers.

Syrian occupation posts were subjected to a series of operations in the Bishmizzin, al-Kurah, Tripoli, al-Tall, Bab al-Tabbanah, and Abu Samrah areas.

Group Attacks Syrian Post, Roadblock

NC1801161890 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The Islamic Nationalist Front [al-Jabhah al-Islamiyah al-Wataniyah] attacked a Syrian post and a roadblock in Saqiyat al-Janzir Square in occupied Beirut at 2100 on 17 January. Several Syrian soldiers were wounded, an internal security forces member was injured by mistake, and a vehicle belonging to the post was destroyed.

The front appeals to Lebanese internal security forces personnel to keep away from Syrian occupation posts and roadblocks.

'Resistance' Detonates Charge Near Patrol

NC1601125190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] National resistance fighters today detonated an explosive charge as an agent Lahd militia patrol was moving along the Anan-Sfaray road. A tank and a troop carrier were destroyed. It was impossible to determine the number of casualties because of the security cordon erected by the militia at the scene of the explosion.

'Awn's 'Cabinet' Meets, Issues Statement

NC1901224290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] At 0930 today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn chaired a cabinet meeting attended by Staff Major General 'Isam Abu-Jamrah, deputy prime minister and minister, and Minister Staff Major General Edgar Ma'luf. Lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lam' attended part of the session.

The cabinet issued the following statement:

The cabinet held its weekly meeting this morning and reviewed the general situation in light of recent domestic and foreign developments. The cabinet reviewed the general political situation before the Arab tripartite committee meeting. The tripartite committee is expected to prepare a report calling for an Arab summit meeting to discuss the Lebanese question.

The cabinet hopes the Arab leaders will review the Lebanese problem thoroughly, because if they overlook the foreign military presence and sidestep the demands of the Lebanese, it is obvious that a successful solution will not be reached. The cabinet expressed the hope that the Arab League remain impartial in dealing with the differences among Arab countries.

The cabinet issued a decree on salary increases inthe private sector and took the appropriate measures to implement similar increases in the public sector. The cabinet also suspended the services of Fu'ad al-Turk, Lebanese ambassador to France, and referred him to the disciplinary board.

'Awn Warns Arab League on Withdrawal Schedule

NC2101082590 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn yesterday sharpened his (?tone), especially toward the Arab League. Addressing a gathering at B'abda Palace, he said: We will be compelled to disavow the Arab League Charter if the league states do not work out a schedule for withdrawal from Lebanon. He added: We tell the Arab states that there is a charter between us and them. They will either implement this charter or we will disavow it. Let this fact be known to them before they embark on any initiative.

Gen 'Awn reaffirmed that a solution in Lebanon must beging with scheduling the withdrawal and not with partitioning or sharing out Lebanon.

Al-Huss Cabinet Discusses Public, Press Freedoms

NC2001213690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1000 today. Present were Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers.

At the end of the session at 1415, Information Minister Edmond Rizq read out a statement that touched on the deliberations which centered on the need to safeguard public freedoms, including freedom of the press and other media. The statement stressed that the practices which restrict democracy and the freedom of expression and opinions constitute direct aggression against the Lebanese Constitution, blatant violation of laws, and are counter to the spirit of the Lebanese democratic parliamentary system.

The cabinet's statement underscored the unity of stands and coexistence in Lebanon and praised the unified national stand of the northerners. The statement underlined the government's steps to preserve public funds and its measures to prevent such funds from being squandered.

Al-Hirawi, Al-Huss Address Media

NC2001214990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The day of solidarity with freedoms in Lebanon was a unique development today. It was marked by complete freedom in the nationalist areas and terror and suppression in the area controlled by the fascist military gang. Muzzling of mouths and arrests are taking place in these areas, with attacks on army positions in Jisr al-Madfun occurring. All this is taking place in accordance with well-studied and programmed measures adopted by the military gang within the context of its dictatorial partitionist plan.

These developments as well as the continuation of preparations for the Lebanese-Syrian summit conference due to be held in Damascus soon were the subject of discussion by the cabinet, which convened today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and eight ministers attending.

Meanwhile, the day of solidarity with media freedoms and the denunciation of 'Awn's terrorist measures have been the current issues. A silent procession began outside the press association headquarters at 1100 today in response to a call by the press and editors unions. Taking part were media men; representatives of popular, cultural, student, women, private trade unions and organizations; representatves of nationalist parties; and crowds of citizens. Leading the demonstrators were press doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, Marwan Hamadah, Marwan Abu-Fadil, Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, and other leading figures. The demonstrators carried slogans, including "No to the liquidation of the Lebanese press;" "No to police suppression;" "Freedom is the essence of Lebanon;" "No Lebanon without freedom;" and "Any aggression against freedom is an aggression against Lebanon's unity."

The procession went by Saqiyat al-Janzir, Verdun, al-Sana'i', and the Information Ministry building, and then on to al-Ramlah al-Bayda'. [passage omitted]

When the procession arrived at al-Ramlah al-Bayda', a delegation from the procession, led by doyen al-Ba'labakki, met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, who cut the cabinet meeting short. The discussion dealt with the momentous media developments.

Addressing the delegation, President al-Hirawi said: We must not forget that Lebanon has survived only because it is a country of freedom. If this freedom erodes, there is no cause for Lebanon to live. We believe in freedom and democracy. Proceeding from this point, the prime minister and I stress that we absolutely support your move as we support the freedom of the press. The information minister's speech in the cabinet will express this position. We salute you as well as the colleagues in the eastern area, who stand fast in the face of the illegal resolutions.

Al-Hirawi added: The judiciary must have the courage to say no to the illegal resolution and not to be led by arbitrary measures that will be detrimental to Lebanon and to its people and government.

For his part, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss addressed the press delegation, saying: I would like to emphasize that by confronting this aggression against freedom in Lebanon, you are expressing the will of a united Lebanon. We are certain that this issue is not the subject of difference among the Lebanese. Your confrontation of the aggression against freedoms expresses the will of the entire Lebanese people and, in turn, the will of a united Lebanon.

Al-Huss added: We support you in your move. Our hand will remain stretched out to your hand. We consider your cause in this respect to be ours. Our concern for freedom in Lebanon stems from our concern for the survival and future of this country because we believe Lebanon and freedom are twins. [passage omitted]

George Hajj Freed; Journalists Issue Statement

NC2001220190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Editors and journalists have reportedly met at the editorial association headquarters in the eastern area at the invitation of press and editorial syndicates, despite acts of suppression and terrorism. These acts were evident when this morning, members of rebel officer Michel 'Awn's organization kidnapped George Hajj, member of the editorial association board, from his home in al-Ashrafiyah [East Beirut] and took him to an undisclosed destination.

The conferees issued a statement noting the Lebanese press corps' unity and cohesion and stressed the need for it to resist all attempts to fragment it and erode the framework securing its unity. The statement declared the conferees' solidarity with their colleagues who had been referred to the judiciary. It also announced the conferees' support for the statement that the press and editorial associations released.

The conferees decided to keep their meeting open and to establish a follow-up committee to keep up with developments and to pursue the issues of suspending publications and referring fellow journalists to justice.

Meanwhile, George Hajj, who was freed this afternoon, said: We have emphasized our commitment to the press and editorial associations' unity and the [word indistinct] press corps and to the defense of freedoms and the right to practice as a syndicate.

2 More Papers Banned in East Beirut

NC2201124790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn's suppression of the press and freedom of information freedom in the eastern area continued today. After banning AL-BAYRAQ AND AL-DIYAR newspapers and AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency in the eastern area, the al-Yarzah army elements also banned AL-NAHAR and the French-language L'ORIENT LE JOUR [published in West Beirut] from being distriubted in the eastern area in accordance with 'Awn's decision to suppress freedom of information.

No Newspapers To Appear 24 Jan

NC2101215890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The battle of freedom against General Michel 'Awn, the enemy of freedom, is continuing. The press and editors unions held a joint meeting at the press union's premises today. They decided to send cables and memorandums explaining the issue of freedom in Lebanon and the repression and persecution to which the Lebanese press in particular and the media in general are being subjected at the hands of former Army commander Gen 'Awn. The cables and memorandums will be sent from tomorrow, Monday, to members of the Arab tripartite committee, the Arab League, Arab journalists union, international journalists union, UN Secretariat, Human Rights Commission, World Press Organization, and press unions in the Arab countries.

The press and editors unions announced that work will stop at the press establishments on Tuesday. No newspapers will appear on Wednesday morning, in solidarity with the newspapers which recalcitrant Gen 'Awn has oppressively banned. It has been further decided to stage a sit-in at the press union's premises in Ra's Beirut between 1100 and 1300 on Wednesday and to urge trade unions and cultural organizations to express their solidarity with the freedom of the press and opinion in Lebanon.

Finance Minister Returns From U.S., France

NC2001213290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil returned to Beirut before noon today at the end of a tour to Washington, New York, and Paris at the request of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the government.

In an arrival statement, he affirmed that the Lebanese Government has asked the major powers, especially the United States, to exert maximum pressure on Israel to withdraw its occupation forces from southern Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. He said the government objects to the situation in the south remaining as it is. The government, he added, wants a radical change in this situation as well as the implementation of Resolution 425. He said: We are willing to deploy the legitimate army in this vital area.

Defense Minister on 'Awn 'Financial Scandal'

NC1201121890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur has affirmed that the government maintains a unified position regarding the need to resolve the crisis. He explained that the legitimate government is using all legal and legitimate means to impose its authority in the public consciousness, which would logically lead to the imposition of state authority over the land.

Regarding General 'Awn's financial scandal, the defense minister asked why 'Awn opened accounts in France in both his and his wife's names. Should anything happen to Gen 'Awn, he said, the money will not go to the state.

In a press interview, the defense minister added that public funds belong to the state and that any person can relinquish banking secrecy under the currency law. As a state, we have the right to give up banking secrecy on public accounts. He said that he supports banking secrecy for individual depositors, but such secrecy is relative and should not be binding for public funds.

The defense minister said: We did not demand the dissolution of military units in the eastern areas. He noted that 'Awn is paying the salaries of the soldiers in Lebanese currency from Lebanese state funds, while he is making payments ranging between $100 and $500 per month to some officers. 'Awn has received funds in dollars from Iraq and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], he said.

Al-Musawi Criticizes 'Arafat 'Resettlement Plan'

NC1901091590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Brother Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has said that the United States has decided to evict the Shiites from the south and treat them like the Palestinians because they confronted the United States and expelled it from Lebanon in humiliation. Brother al-Musawi added that 'Arafat and his defeatist course will not create a state, a canton, or self-rule. 'Arafat, Brother al-Musawi maintained, knows very well that Shamir will not give him 1 inch of Palestinian land. Therefore, 'Arafat is trying to usurp a part of the south, in coordination with the Americans and Zionists, to resettle the Palestinians there.

In his statement, Brother al-Musawi said: As Muslims, we would not accept an alternative homeland for our Palestinian kinfolk. The Palestinians themselves will reject settlement in Lebanon or Jordan because Palestine is an Islamic land and Israel must be wiped out.

Brother al-Musawi went on to say that the continued fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah is contributing to the speeding up of the resettlement plan. He expressed the hope that Hizballah and the Amal Movement will soon reach an agreement based on the Damascus agreement. He urged the two sides to stop the propaganda campaigns which are bound to hamper the working out of an agreement.

Al-Husayni Receives Mu'awwad's Widow

NC2001110890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, who returned to Beirut from Paris at dawn today, received Na'ilah Mu'awwad, widow of martyr President Rene Mu'awwad. They discussed the latest developments.

PSP Denies Allowing Iranian Guards To Enter

NC1801070790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has denied diplomatic reports from Tunis yesterday that it has allowed members of the Iranian Revolution Guards Corps to enter Lebanon. While reiterating its strong ties with Iran, the PSP announces its condemnation of the Amal-Hizballah clashes.

Further Reportage on Visit of Lebanon's Al-Hirawi

Al-Asad Comments at Ceremony

JN2201100990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Jan 99

[Text] In a ceremony at the Presidential Palace yesterday, President Hafiz al-Asad decorated Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi with the Umayyad National Medal of the Grand Sash Order. The president also decorated Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Dr. Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister, with the studded Umayyad National Medal. The ceremony was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputies to the prime minister, and several ministers.

The president delivered a speech on the occasion in which he said: I am pleased to decorate Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of dear Lebanon, with Syria's highest award. I could not find a person more deserving than my brother to decorate with such a medal. The relationship between Syria and Lebanon—if it is correct to say that the two countries are separate—is very deep. No matter how much the hostile and imperialist forces try in the future, as they have done in the past, they cannot change the strong, fraternal, deep-rooted ties between us.

The issue to us, as citizens and officials in Syria, is not only to be independent. What is important to us is to be independent from every colonialist and foreign power. Whether we are one country, two countries, or more, this situation cannot weaken in any form the emotional and intellectual ties that have been established between us throughout history. This prompts us to make sacrifices to ease the burden and pain that our brothers and sons in Lebanon are facing, because our feelings toward them as officials are exactly what we feel toward ourselves. And our feelings toward Lebanese citizens are similar to our feelings toward Syrian citizens. It is regrettable that some people interpret these relations and feelings in a completely inappropriate way; they see them in terms of greediness, ambitions, and other accusations. They say, for example, that we meet as foreign, though friendly countries. I know you share with me the same understanding, however I want to repeat that we are concerned about the Lebanese and about everything that they need. Had it not been for our feeling that the Lebanese people are a part of this [Arab] nation to which we are affiliated—and the part that is the closest to us within this nation—we would not have the motive to make continuous human, economic, political, and military sacrifices throughout these years.

We will not worry about any remarks; we will only try to satisfy our own conscience, feelings, and mind. We are with you and we are happy because together we have overcome major obstacles. Through cooperation with other brothers, and with our own and your efforts, as well as efforts of others, we have revived the constitutional institutions. This is a great achievement despite the difficulties that still exist. However, we are optimistic that we will overcome the current difficulties. We will continue to support you unconditionally.

'Satisfied' With Talks

JN2201131690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by Louis Faris from Damascus]

[Text] Following the third round of talks conducted this morning, sources close to President Ilyas al-Hirawi said the meeting dealt with adoption of decisions to flesh out the points on which agreement was reached yesterday. These are: Reassertion of state sovereignty over the entire country, border control between Lebanon and Syria, denial of illegal access into the country to non-Lebanese, and implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

The sources add that the Lebanon has pronounced itself satisfied and expressed the need to consolidate bilateral relations while preserving the independence and system of government in the two countries. The Lebanese proposed that periodic meetings be held either at summit or ministerial level, or by expert committees on economic, border, and political issues. There was also satisfaction over a statement by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam obligating Syria to implement the part of the al-Ta'if agreement concerning Syria. Khaddam had affirmed that Syria will implement its part of the agreement, denying the existence of a secret or non-secret annex to the al-Ta'if agreement. He emphasized that the partition of Lebanon is an impossible proposition, adding that if 'Awn should make a single move toward that end, we will not be able to continue to exercise patience. Any military action to break the partitionist situation perpetrated by 'Awn's continued rebelliousness against legitimacy is something for Lebanon to decide. When the legitimate government decides on any moves, we will be prepared to extend assistance, added Khaddam.

Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah yesterday announced that President al-Asad had expressed Syria's preparedness to exert whatever effort and make available whatever assistance is requested by Lebanon's legitimate government to help it through difficulties and promote implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

Talks With Al-Asad Resume

JN2201150090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi resumed talks at 1100 today at the Presidential Palace. On the Lebanese side, the meeting was attended by Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker

'Abd-al- Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'

National Reconcilation Discussed

JN2201174590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi resumed talks at 1100 today, at the Presidential Palace. On the Lebanese side, the meeting was attended by Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al- Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The presidents discussed subjects taken up at their two earlier meetings. The talks focused on ways and means to implement the Lebanese national reconcilation agreement and consolidate the legitimate Lebanese government and state institutions. They also explored further ways of developing relations between Syria and Lebanon and discussed other issues of common interest.

Reinforcement of Army, Refugees

JN2201193890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Report by Louis Faris from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Syrian-Lebanese summit talks are continuing. Today's first round of talks lasted about 4 hours, punctuated by a luncheon. Attending the talks were Husayn al-Husayni and Salim al-Huss for Lebanon and 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Faruq al-Shar' for Syria.

Following the meeting, sources close to the Lebanese president revealed that Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi discussed extremely important topics, including the reinforcement of the Lebanese Army in terms of numbers and equipment so that it can implement future security plans to reassert the legitimate government's authority over all Lebanese territory. The sources added that the subject of refugees and their return areas was also discussed today. Agreement was reached to help every refugee, regardless of his sect, to return to his area and rebuild his home. It has also been agreed to give every refugee a sum of money as well as a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2 percent.[passage omitted]

Al-Huss on Ending Rebellion

NC2301065090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss visited the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus yesterday and met with newsmen. He said that the main issue being discussed at the summit talks is cooperation in implementing the al-Ta'if agreement and assisting the state to impose its authority. He noted that the discussions dealt with everything Syria can do to assist Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Huss added that the legitimate government welcomes any effort to end the existing rebellion in the eastern area. He pointed out that the government is following this issue closely and will take measures because resolution of this issue is its primary concern. Therefore, the government is taking measures inside the country and holding contacts abroad because the continuation of the rebellion threatens Lebanon's unity. He said: The biggest obstacle facing the al-Ta'if agreement is the 'Awn obstacle. It is our primary concern. We are ready to suffer everything for the sake of the country's unity, because Lebanon's unity cannot be separate from its existence. We are also ready to suffer everything to implement the al-Ta'if agreement. He added: The legitimate government is trying to combat the partitionist phenomenon by all means. We hope very much that the measures will produce the desired results. There are efforts being made to close all loopholes at the international level and to consolidate support for the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. In our contacts with the tripartite committee we are seeking to achieve a common position to assist us in translating the international support for Lebanon into practical steps that would safeguard its unity.

Press Views Lebanon Position

JN2201094290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Fraternal Damascus Meeting," AL-BA'TH says: The fraternal Lebanese people and the Arab masses have followed up the fraternal Damascus meeting between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi with great concern and with hope, confidence, and belief that the results will be of special importance in light of the special and deep-rooted relations between the two twin countries that share each other's pain and joy. The ties of kinship, history, geography, and common destiny were and still are subject to plotting and attempts to create a rift within the framework of a Zionist plan whose main objective is to partition Lebanon and turn it into a base against Syria and the Arabs.

Under the headline "Deep-Rooted Ties," TISHRIN says: Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi stressed the strong ties between the sisterly countries Syria and Lebanon and the continuation of these ties despite the hostile forces' attempts—now and in the future—to undermine the strength and characteristics of these ties. President al-Asad affirmed—while decorating the guest Lebanese president with the highest Syrian medal—that Syria is concerned about Lebanon and about what satisfies the Lebanese. He also affirmed that Syria stands at the side of the Lebanese without any conditions. President al-Hirawi expressed his appreciation for Syria's fraternal stands and for the assistance it presented to

Lebanon—the assistance that is in the interest of Lebanon, Syria, and all Arabs without exception.

TISHRIN adds: The long years of tribulation in the sisterly Lebanese state indicate that it is impossible to differentiate between the sons of the one people in the two countries. Syria has always been the first to respond to the appeals and calls of the kinfolk. It has placed all its potentials at the disposal of the brothers, protecting them, providing them with security and tranquility, and confronting with firmness the plot aimed at partitioning Lebanon into disputing factional cantons.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Sooner or later, the sisterly country will overcome the phenomenon of mutiny and the attempts to undermine the security and future of the country. The Lebanese people are determined to achieve reconciliation. Syria will always remain at the side of the brothers; it will not spare any possible assistance to end their ordeal and help them continue their normal life.

Under the headline "With Lebanon Without Any Conditions," AL-THAWRAH says: Throughout the years of the crisis, Syria was the brother who defended Lebanon's unity and security; supported, in fact guaranteed, its territorial integrity and people's unity; and entrenched its pan-Arab affiliation. It did all this out of fraternal pan-Arab duty. Syria, which did not and will not accept Lebanon as a base or an access for the Zionist scheme against Lebanon and the Arab nation, cannot ignore the logic of history and geography or the higher pan-Arab interests on whose bahalf it acted to support Lebanon and its people in order to overcome their crisis and liberate the south from the Israeli occupation. As Syria welcomes President al-Hirawi, it reiterates its pan-Arab view that Lebanon will only be as its honest sons and the Arab masses want it to be—united in land and people, with Arab identity and affiliation, liberated from any occupation or Israeli interference.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: As leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad said, Lebanon will not become Israeli. He who wagers on what is contrary to the logic of history and geography is ignorant and he who ignores Syria's strong will and firm determination to save Lebanon from this abnormal situation, will be a loser. As al-Asad said yesterday, Syria will remain at the side of the Lebanese people and of the legitimate government unconditionally.

Papers Assess Meeting, Assistance

JN2301095390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Summit That Faces Up to Challenges," the newspaper TISHRIN says: President al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus, at the invitation of President al-Asad, is of special and major significance. It is al-Hirawi's first trip as Lebanese president. It is natural that his first visit be paid to Syria in light of the important relations between one people in two fraternal countries, in addition to the role that the al- Ta'if agreement has given to Syria in ending Lebanon's ordeal. The visit also comes after a series of developments in Lebanon: the Lebanese national accord government's steps toward tightening the isolation of 'Awn, 'Awn's continued repressive and divisionist measures—particularly his recent moves against the media—and the recent tripartite committee's action, which stated that 'Awn was the only obstacle to achieving accord, implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, and reinforcing the legitimate Lebanese Government's role.

With this in mind, we understand President al-Asad's emphasis when he said yesterday that Syria wishes fraternal Lebanon all prosperity and progress, a calm life for its sons, reassurances, and accord; that Syria views Lebanon as a fraternal country, whose sons are linked to the sons of Syria with every tie of brotherhood, kinship, history, geography, and common destiny; and that Syria is ready to make every effort and lend all possible assistance requested by the legitimate Lebanese Government to overcome difficulties, pursue national reconciliation, and strengthen the development of the legitimate Lebanese Government. This has prompted President al-Asad to express clearly his confidence that cooperation between Syria and Lebanon can foil the enemies' attempts to maintain the anomalous situation in Lebanon.

After reviewing the hostile forces' attempts to undermine the deep-rooted fraternal relations between Syria and Lebanon, the paper says: The summit meeting has set the basis for distinguished relations between the two fraternal countries built on mutual trust that considers the interests of the one people in the two countries in a way that safeguards Lebanon's unity and sovereignty, emphasizes its Arab identity, and guarantees reforms.

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The current anomalous situation in Lebanon, represented by the rebel officer Michel 'Awn, will not change our views. It will only strengthen our determination to assist and support the Lebanese people. This is because, as struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad said during a meeting with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi the day before yesterday, that had it not been for our feeling that the Lebanese people are part of this Arab nation to which we are affiliated—and the part of that nation closest to us—we would not have the motivation to make the continuous human, economic, and military sacrifices we have made throughout these years. Out of this feeling, we are certain that the conspiracy against Lebanon is in its closing chapters, and that the Syrian-Lebanese meeting of the past 2 days will advance the salvation process—something that can only hasten the near- approaching dawn expected by the Lebanese.

AL-THAWRAH says: When the Lebanese president emphasizes that cooperation between Syria and Lebanon is in the interest of Lebanon and its independence as much as it is in the interest of Syria and all Arabs, he is stressing the pan-Arab affiliation of the legitimate Lebanese Government and country, which has suffered disaster at the hands of feeble-hearted and mercenary people. These people interpret affiliation to the homeland and the nation as no more than an affiliation to a dubious and transient position, or an affiliation to anything but Arabism and the dignity and freedom it brings to Arab citizens. However, just as the sincere efforts to end the anomalous situation in Lebanon have produced positive results, the determination to intensify these efforts and to continue support for the legitimate Lebanese Government will enable it to reinforce its march, overcome difficulties, and implement the al-Ta'if agreement.

Syria, as President al-Asad said, will always be ready to extend any assistance requested by the legitimate government, because this is a right and duty.

Ba'th Official Receives Iraqi Kurdish Leader

JN2201155290 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1523 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jan (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq.

They talked about general regional Arab developments, with Talabani pointing to the repressive practices of the fascist regime in Iraq against various factions and organizations.

They also discussed how these forces can tackle these practices so Iraq may resume its national and pan-Arab role in advancing the cause of Arab struggle for liberation.

TISHRIN on Israeli-Ethiopia 'Suspect Plans'

JN2301104690 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0845 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA)—In an article published today, the newspaper TISHRIN affirms that the reopening of the Israeli embassy in Addis Ababa yesterday after a 17-year hiatus is an offense to the Ethiopian people, to the good neighborly relations existing between Arabs and Ethiopians, and also to the joint Arab-African struggle for freedom and against racist forces.

The paper indicates that the Ethiopian decision follows unmistakably clear bilateral coordination dating back to 1985 when the Ethiopian authorities authorized the emigration of 12,000 Falashas to Israel. The paper adds: Some 20,000 more Falashas are waiting to be moved to Israel in return for Israeli military support for Ethiopia. Part of this support, which has been recently disclosed, concerns the decision by the two countries of the internationally banned cluster bomb deal.

TISHRIN believes that this step falls within the framework of a scheme that seeks to facilitate Zionist infiltration into Africa in a bid to beleaguer the Arab homeland and sabotage the ties maintained between Arab countries and their neighboring African states which are partners within the OAU.

Concluding its article, TISHRIN refers to the objectives which Israel intends to achieve in Ethiopia by saying that Israel seeks to infiltrate into the Red sea region and reach the sources of the Nile to implement suspect plans that would harm both Sudan and Egypt in the long run. The paper adds that these Israeli intentions require an immediate and concerted Arab stand on the level of the Arab League and the OAU.

Afghanistan

Kabul Garrison Carries Out Mopping Up Operations

LD2201180790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] In the last 3 days, the units and companies of Kabul Garrison High Command have carried out mopping up and combat operations in the suburbs of the city of Kabul to prevent terrorist actions by Pakistan-supported extremists. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that during these mopping up operations 58 extremists were killed and another 43 were wounded. Also 1 recoilless gun, 1 mortar, 1 rocket launcher, a DShK, 10 guided Milan missiles and Sakr-20 U.S. surface-to-surface missiles belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

Gen Tanay Interviewed on Military Situation

LD2101065590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 20, BAKHTAR—Since the return, under the Geneva Accords, of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan one year ago, the Afghans were thinking that war and bloodshed will be terminated and echo of a single bullet will not be heard in the Republic of Afghanistan (RA).

This was said by General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence of the RA in an interview with the daily PASAM recently. But unfortunately, this wish was not fulfilled and on the contrary the U.S. Pakistan and Saudi Wahhabis did not only stop their interventions in the internal affairs of the RA, but instead gave it even broader dimensions. These interventions continue with full strength now, he stated.

With complete confidence it can be said that the Afghan enemies are lacking all operative initiatives needed for their military victory against the Armed Forces of the country.

The responsible Afghan military authorities for the foiling and prevention of extremists rocket attacks have adopted adequate measures such as establishing and strengthening of security and posts around the cities.

High-way robberies are among the extremists actions to prevent regular supply of essential goods, but the detachments of the government armed forces keep these highways open to traffic.

Up-to-date military techniques, political operative and tactical lessons are rapidly going ahead, in the country's armed forces.

Encharges [as received] of the Armed Forces accomplish their duties with high combat morale. They have full confidence in their victory. Full coordination among the infantry, artillery and air forces of the RA existed; suffice it to say that a number of pilots of the RA have recorded higher flying than those of international norms in the Jalalabad war. The Afghan Army is now capable to provide weapons as well as other necessities for security posts located in the remotest areas in the country.

Unity in the ranks of the Armed Forces is maintained. The victories of the Armed Forces over the enemy is a clear manifestation of this fact.

While talking on unity inside the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Tanay stressed the PDPA pays keen attention for maintaining centralism and democracy in the ranks of the armed forces, it is quite untrue that unity doeS not exist in the PDPA ranks.

We do not say that we have accomplished all our tasks correctly. Lack of experience, political unmaturity etc have created some problems for us. But, we have never neglected our duties which is rendering services to the people in any moment.

Members of the PDPA are unitedly fighting against the enemies in Nangarhar, Qandahar, Paktia, Zabol and Oruzgan Provinces and the Khowst Grand District, he said.

As a result of the unity existed in our party, the national reconciliation policy achieves tremendous victories on national and international levels by flight of time.

The three years of the national reconciliation policy had enriched our experiences for the cessation of war and bloodshed and ensurance of a durable peace in the RA.

It must be said that the international climate is in favour of the realisation of national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan, the Afghan defence minister stressed.

"As defence minister of the RA, I assure people, the Afghan leadership and Najibullah, president of the RA and supreme commander of the Armed Forces that the Armed Forces of the country will fulfill their duties in the defence of the country, gains of the revolution, ensurance of peace and realisation of national reconciliation policy in the future as well, Tanay concluded.

Defense Council Official Hails Forces' Power

LD2101064990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 20, BAKHTAR—The recent politico-military developments in the Republic of Afghanistan were explained by General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary of the Supreme Defence Council of the country in a press conference held here today attended by the foreign journalists.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that during the conference secretary of the Supreme Defence Council of the country delivered a comprehensive speech on the power of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) in repulsion of the attacks and aggressions of the Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis, independent defence of the country after pulling out of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan as well as peace proposals of the RA on formation of a broad-based coalition government in the country.

Later on the foreign journalists raised their questions in connection to the military situation of the country, extremists' rocket attacks on residential areas and arresting of the members of Golbuddin's secret organisation by the security forces of the RA as well as holding of a council in the RA which were answered by the secretary of the secretary of the Supreme Defence Council of Afghanistan.

Security Official Discusses Rebel Infighting

LD2201094490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Since the mass killing of more than 30 commanders of the Rabbani extremist group in Tangai Farkhar, Takhar Province, by Golbuddin's extremist group, conflicts among the rival groups have increased, involving more than 10,000 people throughout the country. This was explained to foreign and local journalists at a newws conference in Storay Palace. Information was given on the intensifying clashes and conflicts among the extemist groups.

A BAKHTAR military section correspondent reports that the news conference was attended by the head of one of the central departments of the Ministry of State Security, who discussed the growing conflicts among the armed opposition groups and the resulting losses inflicted on the people of various regions. He added that the reasons behind the intensification of bloody conflicts and clashes among the armed opposition groups are old political, religious, tribal, and even ideological disagreements, in addition to disputes over control of natural resources and mines, possession and smuggling of gems, and confiscation of lands where narcotics are being produced. Other reasons include the selfishness of the ringleaders of the extremist groups, seizing money and assets, and plundering people's wealth under various pretexts.

These clashes have mostly occurred in the northern, northeastern, and southern regions and particularly in Takhar, Konduz, Badakhshan, and Helmand Provinces, and areas around the city of Kabul. In addition, these clashes are being organized by Pakistani espionage organizations and by other countries that have certain aims in maintaining the existence of the armed opposition groups and their continuing war in the Republic of Afghanistan. Their aim is to kill Afghans and destroy our country. They always want to fan the flames of war with such interventionist plans and conspiracies in our country.

The news conference also heard explanations on the peaceful proposals, measures, and efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to end bloodshed and war in the country and to seek a political solution to the Afghan issue. It noted that the efforts by the leaders of the extremis Pakistan and the formation of their so-called counci foreign soil, will never contribute to the establishme peace and the end of war in the country, bec conflicts among the extremist groups are increasing d and nullify all the efforts of their patrons.

At the end of the news conference, foreign and l journalists asked about the political and military si tion in the country, the combat morale of the perso of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan in facing extre attacks, on arrest of the secret Golbuddin network, on U.S. and Pakistani assistance to the armed opposi groups. All these questions were answered.

Mujahidin Commander Killed in Factional Fighting

BK2301094190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in Englis 23 Jan 90 p 8

[By Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 22—Jamiat-e Eslami comman 'Abdul Rasul and about a dozen of his supporters h reportedly been killed in a recent clash with Hez Eslami commander Sayyed 'Ali in Baharak District Badakhshan Province in northern Afghanistan.

Reports reaching Peshawar from Badakhshan said clash erupted when Jamiat men tried to overrun Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) base in Zardew valley Baharak. It was Hezb-e Eslami's last stronghold in Ba khshan Province after losing the rest of its bases in province. Hezb commander Sayyed 'Ali had earl resisted three Jamiat attacks on his base. He was f merly in Jamiat but had quit the party along w prominent scholar Mohammad Kazim Shahriqi wh the latter developed ideological differences with Pr Burhanuddin Rabbani. Commander Sayyed 'Ali, who Tajik, later joined Hezb-e Eslami and once challeng Jamiat's most famous commander Ahmad Shah Mas' to flex muscles with him. Commander 'Abdul Rasul w died in the clash with Hezb-e Eslami Mujahidin was t right hand man of Jamiat commander Najmuddin. Bo were Tajik and hailed from Wardooj valley in Bahar District. He was known as a ruthless man who co mitted atrocities on his defeated opponents. He a Najmuddin were accused of killing 102 people aft capturing Zebak town in Badakhshan. Zebak was reca tured by the Kabul regime later.

Commander 'Abdul Rasul was also charged with indi criminate killings in Baharak District in earlier clash with Hezb-e Eslami. Both Hezb and Jamiat were accuse of resorting to inhuman methods to kill their vanquishe opponents.

Meanwhile, travellers arriving in Peshawar from Bad khshan claimed that serious differences had develope between Jamiat's general commander for Badakhsha Province Ghulam Mohammad Aryanpur and his one time lieutenant Mohammad Amin Nasiryar. It wa learnt that the latter had revolted against his mentor and captured Keshm District Headquarters and forced Commander Aryanpur to seek refuge in the neighbouring Takhar Province.

The travellers also reported famine-like conditions in some parts of Badakhshan. They said the Jamiat-Hezb strife and the infighting in the Jamiat-controlled Supervisory Council of the North had contributed to the scarcity of food items and other necessities since supply routes were frequently closed by the combatants. The closure of some routes due to the winter snowfall had made matters worse.

BBC Cited on Differences Among 'Extremists'

LD2101070290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 21 Jan 90

["Differences Among Extremists Increase"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 20, BAKHTAR—The plan of the six Afghan opposition groups based in Peshawar has been rejected by Golbuddin and the eight alliance stationed in Iran, reports Radio BBC.

Nawab Salim, spokesman of Golbuddin's extremist group has said that plan of elections hatched by Mojaddedi, Sayyaf, and four other opposition groups, is demagogic, in fact, they are not elections but appointments. He adds that they instead of announcement of holding elections have rejected the principle of the elections and we will never accept their appointed and imposed government.

The Radio BBC adds, many believe that, in this kind of elections possibilities exist for fabrication and misuse and cannot be real elections.

From the other side spokesman of the eight alliance based in Iran has also rejected the draft and considered it impracticable. The spokesman went on to say that the six groups cannot represent all people of Afghanistan and leaders of the opposition groups in Peshawar have even ignored [word indistinct] of the refugees in their draft as well.

Spokesman of the Eight Alliance has said: Mojaddedi and Sayyaf would not let women to candidate themselves or vote for someone.

The political observers believe that the said draft would result in intensification of differences and division among the extremist groups and it seems at present that the draft is faced a defeat.

Iran-Based Mujahidin Leader Rejects Poll Plan

BK2201105490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 21—An Iran-based Afghan Mujahidin leader has rejected the election plan announced by the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) and instead called for general elections in a bid to form a government acceptable to all Afghans.

'Ali Akbar Misbah, Central Council member of the Jabhe-ye Mottahed-e Eslami (United Islamic Front), told a press conference in Peshawar Sunday [21 January] that these elections were designed to prolong the life of the present AIG rather than involve all the parties in the election process. He claimed the nine-party Iran-based alliance of Shia Mujahidin parties was not in favour of the AIG election formula.

'Ali Akbar Misbah said his party had no contact with Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) before rejecting the AIG election plan. He felt it was only by chance that the two parties adopted a similar stand on these elections. He said the Iran-based Mujahidin Alliance was formulating its own formula for elections with a view to forming representative Mujahidin government.

Asked about Golbuddin Hekmatyar's policy to support a military coup d'etat by soldiers opposed to the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] regime in Kabul, the Shia leader said his party backed all efforts to topple the Najib Government since the aim was to install an Islamic government.

AIG's Sayyaf Condemns Proposed Zahir Shah Talks

BK2101094590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, Jan. 20—Prime Minister of the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) Prof. 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf has strongly condemned the proposed meeting of the ex-King Zahir Shah and Italian President.

In a statement issued by MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the AIG Prime Minister said that it was clear interference in the internal affairs of our country. He said, "countries who claim to support the self-determination right of nations and ensuring world peace and tranquillity, should not interfere in our domestic affairs and damage our self-determination and the process which is bringing peace and tranquillity, according to the wishes of the Afghan nation."

Indonesian Envoy Returns, Reopens Embassy

BK2001101590 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Jan 90 p 7

[Excerpt] Kabul, Wednesday [10 January]—Indonesia reopened its embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Wednesday after closing it for 11 months following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country last February. The move by Indonesia and other Western countries coincided with the increasingly fierce attacks by Afghan Muslim fighters against the country's capital, controlled by the Soviet-backed government.

Accompanied by a skeleton staff in charge of technical and administrative affairs, Indonesian Charge d'Affaires Abdul Ghani returned to Kabul on Tuesday to reopen the mission. A spokesman of the Afghan Government confirmed the reopening of the Indonesian mission, adding that residence permits for Indonesian diplomats had been approved for 1 year.

The Kabul authorities noted that the Indonesian charge d'affaires had been residing in New Delhi, India. On Wednesday, he met with senior officers of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Abdul Gafur Bayer, the new Indonesian ambassador to Afghanistan, will leave Jakarta to assume his post in Kabul soon. [passage omitted]

Vice Presidents Meet With Soviet Delegation

LD2201093390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 21, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Rahim Hatef, and 'Abdulhamid Muhtat vice-presidents of the Republic of Afghanistan met with the Soviet delegation headed [words indistinct] Y. Gregorovich, chairman of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Association here today. During the meeting issues related to the expansion of (?friendly) relations between the peoples of both countries as well as matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, vice-chairman of the peace-solidarity and friendship organisation of the Republic of Afghanistan and minister counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul were also present at the meeting.

Based on another report Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan met with the said delegation here [words indistinct].

During the meeting matters related to the expansion and strengthening of relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union were discussed and both sides stressed upon the role of the friendship associations between the two countries.

India

Gujral, Singh, Yaqub Khan Discuss Punjab, Kashmir

BK2201124990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] India has again firmly conveyed its concern to Pakistan over Islamabad's involvement leading to stepped up terrorist activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The issue and the question of the venue of the next SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit figured prominently during the extensive discussion between the visiting Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Indian leaders in New Delhi today. Mr Yaqub Khan met the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral. Mr Yaqub Khan also met the prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, later for about half an hour.

'Neighbors' Nurturing 'Fundamentalism' in Kashmir

BK2101052390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0414 GMT 21 Jan 90

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Srinagar, India, Jan 21 (AFP)—The wave of separatist violence wracking Kashmir is the bloody outcome of growing Muslim fundamentalism being nurtured by India's Islamic neighbors, local political and religious leaders here say.

They say the separatist campaign which has rocked the Indian-administered Kashmir region stems from the frustrations of the state's largely Muslim population over what they consider New Delhi's negligence.

"There has been a cultural aggression," said Molvi Farooq, a leading Muslim figure in the hotly disputed valley, one of India's most picturesque areas nestled strategically among China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Violence linked to Muslim militants seeking the independence of Kashmir has left some 30 people dead since the start of the year, already half the number of those killed in all of 1989.

The Indian Government regularly accuses Pakistan of being largely responsible for the campaign led by almost always elusive "terrorists", a charge Islamabad denies.

Both countries claim Kashmir, split into two parts after their independence in 1947 and the cause of two wars between the traditionally hostile neighbors.

Kashmir's senior tourist official, Nazir Bakshi, said the militant campaign started as an economic battle, then became a fight for religious and political independence.

"The idea of the militants is to start a revolution, they are using religion to achieve a political end, the independence of Kashmir," he said.

"They are using the concept of an Islamic state," he said, stressing that 95 per cent of Kashmiris were Muslims, many of whose education was based on Islam alone since "about 60 per cent are illiterate in the valley."

"Initially no doubt Pakistan supported (the movement)," Mr. Bakshi said, "but it has become a Kashmir problem."

But in an interview last week, the state's chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, said that he had definite proof that Pakistan was training the militants.

"Boys who went across (the border) told us of camps in Peshawar, also in Afghanistan. They told us of Arabs also being trained," he said.

Peshawar, in northwestern Pakistan, is the seat of the seven U.S.- and Pakistani-backed Sunni Muslim parties battling to overthrow the Soviet-backed Afghan regime.

"The feeling is that some Islamic revolution is being prepared in these camps," he said.

Dr. Abdullah has since quit his post to protest the Friday nomination by New Delhi, without his consultation, of a new governor to Kashmir, who was charged with managing the state's affairs.

"Some elements, some groups try to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of Kashmir ... fundamentalism is definitely there," commented the state's industry minister, Moulvi Iftikar Ansari.

Several religious figures say that some militant groups have links with Shiite Muslim Iran and even Libya, although the large majority of Kashmiris are Sunnis.

The separatist militant groups, mainly the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, have disrupted all aspects of life with general strikes, bomb attacks on schools and other public buildings and assassinations of security personnel.

The widespread and often bloody campaign has forced the government to impose long curfews throughout the state.

In early December, the militants presented India's new prime minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, with his first major crisis by kidnapping the daughter of Muslim home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. Her release was later obtained after New Delhi freed five jailed militants.

In recent weeks, using raids and threats, the militants have succeeded in closing down all bars, liquor stores, movie theaters and hair salons. Last July, they warned women not to venture out with uncovered heads and arms.

According to numerous figures familiar with the area, the militants enjoy widespread and strong support from the people of Srinagar, the state's summer capital, as well as in the Kashmir valley.

"When curfew was released, people from other areas would come to distribute free food and medicine. It is a chain reaction in the valley," Mr. Bakshi said.

But the authorities say the militants' directives are observed out of fear and not out of conviction.

They also say that the militants burn down schools so that the young will have no other choice than to attend private schools which offer an Islamic education.

Rajiv Gandhi Condemns Bhutto Statement on Kashmir

BK2201161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Congress-I condemns the Pakistan prime minister's statement yesterday on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called upon the government to refute Ms Benazir Bhutto's statement and take all steps to repulse attempts to interfere in India's internal affairs.

Meanwhile, the party's general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, in a separate statement has criticized the center for its alleged failure to deal with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

PATRIOT Hails Government Message to Pakistan

BK2201150490 Delhi PATRIOT in English
13 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Message to Pakistan"]

[Text] The Central Government, to judge by reports, has given an unambiguous message to Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto in discussions with her special envoy Abdus Sattar in Delhi. The Prime Minister is said to have told Mr Sattar that India-Pakistan relations cannot improve unless Islamabad genuinely halts its interferences in Punjab and Kashmir. The situation would become unmanageable if allowed to escalate. Mr Sattar, chagrined at the reports of his meetings in the Indian press, has found reason to lodge an official complaint with the Foreign Office. Even if Mr V.P. Singh has not used the words attributed to him in reports, he should have spoken the words ascribed to him because any sincere effort to resolve the rather complicated relationship between the two countries has to be based not on anticipated unilateral gestures of goodwill by the National Front Government in New Delhi, but in honestly identifying and removing the irritants that are the clot in the inter-action. Islamabad of course need not be told what these irritants are as Ms Bhutto even in the midst of her own domestic political compulsions surely knows the vicious role being played by various Pakistani agencies in fomenting and sustaining a high pitch of violence, destruction and terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The situation in the two Indian States is perhaps seen as ripe for more precipitate Pakistani action by some segments of the Pakistani elite. Even those in India who would be wont to take at face value, or build on any diplomatic and protocol gesture from the Pakistani capital, have been forced to advise caution after the thinly disguised military exercise, Zarb-e-Momin, which leaves no doubt that Pakistan still sees India as its major, perhaps its only, enemy and gathers its domestic and international policies around this perception. Mr Sattar's was not a mandate to discuss anything of substance, but only to listen, after having conveyed his Premier's formal greetings. He would serve her well if he were to convey the strength of India's feeling that Pakistan's desire for friendship should be manifest in deeds, and not merely in formal words.

'Left Parties' Ask All-Party Meeting on Kashmir

BK2001161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The left parties have expressed concern over the latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir. Criticizing the appointment of what they called a controversial person as governor despite the resentment expressed by the chief minister, they said the problems in the state will get aggravated in the absence of any political initiative. This was stated in a joint statement after their meeting in New Delhi today attended by the leaders of CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], and the Forward Bloc. They asserted that national issues need to be tackled through a consensus and called for an all-party meeting to discuss the problem.

All-Party Meeting To Tackle Kashmir Situation

BK2201035990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that the reservation policy for the backward classes will continue till equal economic and social opportunities are made available to all. Addressing a public meeting in Jaipur yesterday, he said the country is facing the biggest problem in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and it will be solved through talks with the people of the state. He reiterated that no compromise will be made with the territory or the Constitution of the country while tackling this problem.

Earlier, talking to newsmen on board the special IAF [Indian Air Force] aircraft on way to Jaipur, the prime minister announced that an all-party meeting will be held to tackle the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He, however, did not give any specific date.

Rajiv Gandhi Meets President on Kashmir Events

BK2101154890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, today and expressed his deep concern at developments in Kashmir since yesterday. The party spokesman said Mr Gandhi also held a day-long consultations with his party colleagues on the Kashmir situation.

BJP Chief Welcomes Government Steps in Kashmir

BK2001094990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr L.K. Advani, has welcomed the steps taken by the center in Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow today, he blamed Dr Farooq Abdullah for the present situation in the Kashmir Valley. He expressed surprise over the statement of the former prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, that the resignation of the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was a dangerous development for the country.

Meanwhile, various political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have welcomed the proclamation of governor's rule in the state.

Further Reportage on Unrest in Jammu, Kashmir

Curfew in 8 More Towns

BK2201090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew has been imposed in eight more towns of the Kashmir Valley this morning as a precautionary measure. They are Shupiyan, Tral, Kotwara, Handwara, (Birwah), Badgom, Magam, and Trehgam. The curfew continues in Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramula, and Sopor. Brijbehara Town also came under curfew last night following clashes between security forces and some armed miscreants.

An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the situation remained generally peaceful throughout last night. No untoward incident was reported from any part of the valley so far.

5 Killed; Governor Asks 'Normalcy'

BK2201160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Excerpts] In Jammu and Kashmir, five persons were killed in violent incidents today. Curfew has been imposed on two more towns of the Kashmir Valley. The situation in the valley has been officially described as tense, but under control.

Three persons were killed and two others injured when the security forces opened fire to quell a violent mob in the curfew-bound Anantnag town. The Anantnag district magistrate told the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the Army has been asked to stand by to meet any eventuality.

In Srinagar two persons were killed in clashes. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent this evening that a curfew was clamped in Pulwama and (Pumpor) towns this afternoon.

The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr Jag Mohan, told our special correspondent in a telephonic interview a short while ago that curfew in Srinagar is being relaxed from 0500 to 0900 tomorrow following a little improvement in the situation. [passage omitted]

The union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, is understood to have directed the Jammu and Kashmir administration to firmly deal with the situation in the valley. At the same time, the state administration has been asked to look into any complaint of harassment by law and order machinery.

The state governor, Mr Jag Mohan, has appealed to the people of the state to help in restoring complete normalcy in the state. He has also called for immediate surrender of illegal arms and weapons so that the need for making any search by the police did not arise. Mr Jag Mohan said a high-powered independent agency will be set up to probe all cases of corruption, favoritism, nepotism, and any other excesses. The committee will also look into the root causes of the current unrest in the state.

Srinagar 'Not Yet Under Control'

BK2301025390 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 23 Jan 90

[From "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In spite of the indefinite curfew which has been imposed in Srinagar, capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in city is not yet under control. The curfew was imposed after about 40 people were killed in clashes involving Muslim separatists. But the BBC Delhi correspondent, Mark Tully, who is in Srinagar, says the demonstrations for independence have continued and security forces have fired on at least six protest marches.

[Begin Tully Recording] In parts of Srinagar I saw soldiers and paramilitary police lining the streets and pointing their weapons at houses to prevent people coming out, but they could not stop slogans like "Indian dogs go home" and "we want freedom, we want Islam" being shouted inside mosques. In other parts of the city I saw no sign of security forces. They we were frequently stopped by angry crowds critical of coverage by the international media.

In one of the main hospitals I was mobbed by frenzied crowds who pushed me through the wards, the canteen, and the main hall—all of them were full of the injured. One doctor told me that at least 150 people suffering from bullet wounds have been brought in.

Apart from the almost universal anger of the people, the authorities are also facing a strike by the Kashmir police force. The strike followed a clash between the Kashmir police and the all Indian paramilitary forces which occurred after the paramilitary forces had shot a Kashmiri policeman dead. [end recording]

Kashmir Valley 'Peaceful'

BK2301091590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, day curfew was lifted in Sopor Town today following improvement in the situation. In Baramula, curfew has been relaxed for 12 hours from 0600 this morning. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the situation in the Kashmir Valley generally remained peaceful and no untoward incident has been reported so far. In Srinagar, curfew is being relaxed in a phased manner for 4 hours. Awantipur Town came under curfew this morning as a precautionary measure, while curfew continues in 13 other towns in the Kashmir Valley. The authorities had to impose curfew in Kulgam Town late last night when some government buildings were set ablaze by miscreants.

The administration has appealed to the people not to believe in rumors and to contact the local police control room to confirm any information.

The Bhartiya Janata Party president, Mr L.K. Advani, has described as most grave since the independence the present situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He demanded immediate measures to drive out the Pakistani infiltrators from the state. Speaking to newsmen in Ahmedabad this morning, Mr Advani welcomed the appointment of the new governor and expressed the hope that he would be able to create confidence among the local people and remove the sense of insecurity from their minds. He said that the partisan stand taken by the Congress-I in Jammu and Kashmir is singularly unfortunate.

Gandhi Discusses Bofors 'Kickbacks' Recovery

BK2001085590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Congress-I government had cleared the desk for recovery of 64 crore rupees from the Swedish Bofors Company allegedly paid as kickbacks in the gun deal. He was addressing a meeting at Amethi in Uttar Pradesh yesterday. Mr Gandhi said that his government had not only initiated this process but also completed it after several months of exercise. At the end of October last, the Bofors Company gave its consent to return the amount. He said, however, since the elections had already been announced, the government decided to leave the final recovery to the new government.

Mr Gandhi expressed serious concern over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. He said unless strong measures are taken soon to tackle the problems there, the situation may go out of hand. He deplored the way in which the governors were asked to resign and described it as an unhealthy trend.

Spokesman Reacts to Gandhi Remarks on Bofors Deal

BK2001160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] It has been officially clarified in New Delhi today that the present government is concerned with finding out the names of the recipients of the kickbacks in the Bofors gun deal, and mere return of the money paid in violation of the contract is not enough.

Reacting to a statement made by the former prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on the issue yesterday, an official spokesman said the approach of the present government is quite clear. The Swedish firm Bofors already stands debarred from consideration of any future contract in India pertaining to weapons and weapon systems. The investigation of the cases has also been taken up in real earnest. The exercise to review even the existing contract is also in an advanced stage. The spokesman said that then attorney general, chief of Army staff, and even the minister of state for defense had favored a strong line to be taken with the Bofors company. They even suggested cancellation of the contract as per the official records.

It may be recalled that Mr Rajiv Gandhi, while addressing a meeting in Amethi yesterday, asserted that the Congress-I government had cleared the desk by October last for the recovery of 64 crore rupees from the Bofors company allegedly paid by it as kickbacks in the gun deal. He claimed that since the elections were already announced, his government decided to leave the final recovery to the new government.

Bureau Registers Criminal Case on Bofors Charges

BK2201131390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has registered a criminal case in respect of the allegations of corruption relating to the Bofors contract. Among the 14 accused persons listed in the FIR [first information report] are former president of Bofors, Mr (Martin Ardbo), Mr Win Chadha, and Mr G.P. Hinduja. Also among the accused are certain public servants of the Government of India, with none of their names mentioned. The 66-page FIR was filed in a New Delhi court early in the afternoon.

Addressing a news conference, the CBI director, Mr Rajendra Shekhar, said that investigation will now commence and evidence will be collected within the country and outside, including Switzerland and Sweden. Assistance of Interpol would also be sought.

The FIR alleges that large part of the payments in connection with the deal were given to concerned public servants as illegal gratifications which led to abuse of official positions and award of the contract. The FIR highlights the undue secrecy and unusual credit pattern in which remittances from Bofors were deposited in a Swiss bank. This indicated clandestine dealings, the FIR pointed out.

Iran

Further Reportage, Comment on Soviet Azerbaijan

Deputies Write Gorbachev

LD2301112590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, at the end of today's Majles open session, a letter written by more than 160 deputies to the Soviet leader about the events in Soviet Azerbaijan was read out.

Referring to the historical letter of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni to the Soviet leader foreseeing the new political conditions in the world, particularly in the USSR—which has brought a ray of hope to all philanthropists—the letter reads: By demonstrating in their cities and massing along the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the seat of Islam in the present era, the people of Soviet Azerbaijan are expressing their desire to return to the bosom of Islam and regain their lost identity.

The letter continues: Iranian Muslims are conscious of their religious and humanitarian duty and are extremely concerned about these events. Along with the rest of the world's Muslims, we, the Majles deputies, express our deep regret over the grief and hardship inflicted on the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan. In expressing our condolences to them, we call on the Soviet leader not to be influenced by the ploys of world arrogance and the criminal United States, and treat the Soviet Muslims, whose hearts are alight with the love of Islam, peacefully.

Soviet Forces Restrict Movement

LD2201105690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that after 4 days of crossings back and forth across the border by Muslim Soviet Azarbayjanis, as of this morning, USSR military forces, including mechanized forces, are severely restricting their entry into Iran by stationing themselves on the border. According to this report, only those Soviet Azarbaijanis who are in Iran in the towns of Astara and Bileh Savar are allowed to return to the Soviet Union, after passing through strict controls. Mechanized forces are also stationed on the border.

'Large Group' Departs From Astara

NC2301063290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, a large group of Muslims from Soviet Azerbaijan who had arrived in the border town of Astara departed for their homes in Soviet Azerbaijan yesterday after a short stay.

Ceremonies To Mark Events

LD2101220490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] The Society of Tehran's Militant Clergy issued a statement about the current events in Soviet Azerbaijan, inviting the public, particularly the 'ulema, hojjaj ol-eslam, and Friday imams, to attend the ceremonies which will be held in this connection, between 1500 and 1700 at the Ark mosque in Tehran on 22 January.

Qom Seminarians Warn USSR

NC2201065890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Qom Seminarians Association has issued a statement expressing sympathy with the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan and requesting the Soviet Government to adhere firmly to the policy of equal rights for all nationalities and to refrain from resorting to pressure or military action against the Azerbaijani Muslims.

According to IRNA, the statement expresses regret over the recent events in Soviet Azerbaijan, which will have a negative impact on the new spirit of hope that has emerged after 70 years of suffocation and dictatorship in the Soviet Union, and vehemently condemns the West's hypocritical attitude toward the recent events in Soviet Azerbaijan.

The Qom Seminarians Association's statement referred to the historic message—from His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, to Mr Gorbachev—in which Imam Khomeyni warned the Soviet leader not to fall into the embrace of the West and asked Mr Gorbachev to take steps to formulate his policy in a way that would prevent the Soviet Azerbaijani Muslims from becoming victims.

In conclusion, the statement expressed hope that the Soviet Government will heed the exhortations of the leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, avoid making mistakes, and pay greater attention to any measures that could harm the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan.

Commentary on Events, Media

LD1801235590 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] With the continuation of the crisis in the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic, that country's Foreign Ministry spokesman declared more troops have been dispatched to the region in order to bring the situation under their control.

In a joint statement released by the Soviet KGB, and the Defense and Interior Ministries, the military and security forces have been authorized to use firearms in order to restore tranquillity. On this we have a report.

The critical situation in the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic which intensified since early last week with armed clashes between the Azerbaijanis and Armenians, has put the Soviet Government to a big test. In a special session which was attended and chaired by Mr Gorbachev, the security and military forces were permitted to prevent intensification of clashes by interfering in the affairs of this republic and that is at a time when despite dispatch of 11,000 army, information and security forces to the region, clashes have been intensified and it seems that attacks against military and security caravans have intensified the crisis there.

So far, a large number of people have been killed and reports indicate that the security forces have arrested many suspects. The present trend in the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic has undoubtedly brought about many concerns.

The western mass media pretend the situation in Soviet Azerbaijan is more critical than is assumed and in this manner they intend to add to Mr Gorbachev's domestic problems and weaken his initiative effected on the scene of foreign policy during the past several months.

Existing evidence prove that developments in Azerbaijan and expansion of crisis there cannot be described as natural. Shifting of events from a peaceful trend to armed clashes, which can destabilize this region totally, will have unpredictable consequences.

Certainly these events have their root in 70 years of Stalinist policy in the Soviet Union. The past weeks events in the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic enjoy special characteristics, which should be studied and looked at more carefully. If more attention is paid to the Western mass media's direction of propaganda, it can be easilly assessed that the Western media attempt to attach special significance to the Azerbaijan events from two directions: firstly, by mooting something called the crusade, between the Azerbaijani Muslims, and the people of Armenia, they show their hostility towards Muslims and try to prepare the international ground for another confrontation against Muslims, and secondly, by involving Mr Gorbachev in these events they try to portray a new picture of that country, something which will be really nearly favored by the West.

The root of these events has been directly in many years of Stalinist systems tyranny and oppression on the people of Azerbaijan. But without doubt a military solution to this question is neither demanded by the Azerbaijani people nor such a method can solve the problem.

The Islamic Republic of Iran follows the present situation with much concern. And now there are doubts whether with the expansion of crisis in that region, the freedoms which have been brought about within the framework of glasnost and perestroyka, will remain or not and in that case, the crisis may become an excuse and the means for redomination of military rule and suppression in that region.

During the past 2 years, the Western mass media, through a well-orchestrated move, have attempted to divert the realities of the Soviet Azerbaijan and the expansion of the radio and television propaganda and in special programs they have attempted to direct the people of Azerbaijan towards a civil war. Of course, in case the Soviet leaders remain realistic in approaching these events we can be hopeful that a trend which is about to turn into a tragedy will be checked.

Now that the Soviet leadership cadre has dispatched more troops to the region in order to control the situation there and it has been reported that so far 80,000 people have gone to that region, it can be said that unpredictable events are likely to happen. And there is no doubt the only way for the continuation of the process which has started by Mr Gorbachev in the Soviet Union is to get out of this critical situation in a logical and peaceful manner. For if execution of a plan is to be mingled with bloodshed and hatred, such a trend can undoubtedly provide the grounds for failure of that plan and this is something desired by the West which pursues continuation of its existence and influence in world crises.

Regardless of all these issues, an understanding of the situation and the objectives, which are being pursued in adding to the Azerbaijan crisis, is something essential; for otherwise, satanic elements will introduce to people whose mere demand is to achieve their trampled rights, responsible for these events. [sentence as heard]

'Calamity' in Baku Described

NC2101211690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] All signs had indicated a potential grave calamity, particularly after the sudden changes in Baku radio and television programs. However, in light of the Soviet Government's actions in the past few years, there were hopes that a suitable solution for the crisis would be reached at the last moment. No one expected such a serious calamity to occur.

According to reports carried by Soviet and international news agencies, Soviet Red Army troops overcame the obstacles and advanced into the city of Baku. Heavy human losses were reported as a result. Worse still are the reports about real massacres, the victims of which were naturally civilians.

The world is now wondering why the Soviet troops attacked Baku, when the acts of violence and clashes were concentrated in the mountainous city [as heard] of Karabakh. Recent events surprised the world, which a few days ago saw Gorbachev talking with the people of Lithuania about their freedom and neglected rights. Gorbachev himself heard of that massacre in Azerbaijan. Why did he not act here with the same tolerance? Why did he not talk directly and frankly with the Azeris, instead of using the logic of force and violence with them?

The extent of the recent losses is still unknown. Until the moment this report was prepared, Baku radio was reporting that the Russian troops had crushed hundreds of civilians under their tanks. The radio declared 3 days of mourning in Azerbaijan. Ikhtiyar Wahab Zadah [name as heard] announced his withdrawal from the Soviet parliament, and Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov was dismissed from his post. The prime minister of the Azerbaijani republic and the second secretary of the Communist Party immediately assumed the task of administering the affairs of the republic.

Anyway, observers had expected the problem to be solved in Karabakh itself, which is the disputed area and the scene of recent acts of violence. However, it appears that the government in Moscow saw matters otherwise.

Western news agencies deliberately ignored or played down the significance and the seriousness of the massacres committed against Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan. The American CNN network, which broadcasts programs in many languages, focused on the arrest of the Washington mayor, regarding that as the most significant item of international news. For this network, the news of the declaration of a state of emergency and the enforcement of martial law in Azerbaijan was the last item in terms of significance and priority. This network summed up the news of the Azerbaijan calamity by saying that this Soviet republic is experiencing a deteriorating situation and that Soviet troops had entered Baku. The network ignored reports about massacres, losses, and casualties.

Moscow radio reported that security forces had entered Baku to confront a number of criminals who had created a state of anarchy in the city and that the security forces had succeeded in dispersing them. The radio reported losses.

The so-called free radio, which is beamed by the CIA to the people of Azerbaijan, announced that it would broadcast special programs for 24 hours.

At that time, we tried to telephone Baku to learn of the latest developments. However, the other side refrained from establishing any telephone communication. Anyway, the best description of current events in Azerbaijan is that they are incredible and contrary to expectations.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamen'ei, leader of the Islamic nation, warned the Soviet leaders a few days ago that bloody events will occur as a result of resorting to violence against the sons of Azerbaijan. Thousands of Muslim Azeris poured into the Islamic Republic of Iran 3 days ago to thank the leader of the Islamic revolution for his great interest. However, it is apparent that military troops in Azerbaijan favored another option.

The declaration of a state of emergency and the enforcement of martial law in Azerbaijan came as a surprise to the sons of the Muslim Iranian people, particularly the inhabitants of the city of Tabriz, about which there are bright chapters in Iranian history.

The famous leader (Satterkhan) said one day that Azerbaijan is like a solid rock which absorbs heat slowly and constantly and loses it slowly. This eloquent statement leads us to conclude that the declaration of a state of emergency does not mean that the matter has ended. We naturally refer to events according to our own views and convictions.

The Soviet Government realizes, of course, that the Islamic Republic regime, which represents the focal point of the Islamic world, cannot ignore the unexpected events and developments which the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan are experiencing. The Soviet border guards who are stationed along the borders with Iran saw with their own eyes how thousands of Azeris rushed to Iranian territories in the past few days. Such deep and human Islamic feelings and this sense of fraternity entail certain responsibilities. Officials in Moscow of course realize this fact. They realize that, though borders should be respected, Muslim solidarity does not recognize geographical borders. The sons of our Muslim people share with the Muslims of remote Indonesia their ambitions and sufferings. How can our people tolerate the fact that the conditions of Muslims in neighboring Azerbaijan are totally ignored? It is not possible to ignore the question of religious, historical, linguistic, emotional, and geographical solidarity.

The Soviet Government must not interpret these normal facts in any other way, because Muslims form one body and have a common future. Will any one forget that the Turkmen, the Tartars, the Kirgiz, the people of the Caucasus, the Azeris, and the Tajiks, which were all Muslims, were unified in 1917, during the Russian revolution? Will anyone forget that they formed a unified army and that they used one language?

The republic of Azerbaijan is a precious part of the Islamic body. Look at what the English newspaper THE INDEPENDENT says on that. The paper said that Soviet Armenia is the Christians' brave son on the eastern front in the face of Muslims. Hence, we can understand why Washington, London, Paris, and other Western capitals are talking about what is happening in Muslim Azerbaijan in a manner which implies that only the brave Muslim Azeris are to blame for what is happening.

We had hoped perestroyka would succeed throughout the Soviet Union. If the image of perestroyka is stained with blood in one Soviet republic, we cannot say that perestroyka has succeeded.

The Iranian Government has repeatedly called on the Soviet Government to exercise self-control. We still that hope the Soviet officials will take the advice and recommendations of Ayatollah Khamene'i, in which he called on them to avoid bloodshed, because violence never solves anything.

Velayati Meets Lebanese 'Ulema Delegation

LD2101213290 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—A delegation of the Assembly of Jabal Amel 'Ulema discussed current developments in war-scarred Lebanon with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

Head of the delegation Shaykh 'Afif Nablusi expressed concern over the political and military developments as well as the Amal-Hizballah fratricide. He called for full implementation of the Damascus accord by the rival groups, and thanked the Islamic Republic for mediating between the two Muslim groups.

Velayati in reply regretted the fratricide in south Lebanon and expressed hope that their problems would be resolved, so that all guns are turned towards the common enemy, the illicit Zionist regime.

The delegation also met with Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi later in the day to discuss the issues in Lebanon.

UN Human Rights Special Envoy Arrives for Talks

LD2101095990 Tehran IRNA in English 0530 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—The special envoy of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl arrived in Tehran early this morning. Pohl is to stay here for over a week and will be informed of the operation of the judicial system in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He will also hold talks with Iranian officials on human rights issues.

University Chancellors Support Khamene'i

LD1701190190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] In continuation of intense in-fighting among members of the government, at the end of yesterday's conference of chancellors of universities of medical sciences a resolution was issued in support of Khamene'i. Such forced expressions of support are still continuing among various organs of the regime.

The interesting point is that in the messages issued by the members and organs of the regime, a section only support the principle of the vice-regency of the jurisconsult and another section, while defending this principle, also support Khamene'i as its symbol. These efforts are carried out in continuation of a crisis about Khamene'i's leadership which has enqulfed the entire regime.

President Chairs NIOC Meeting; Budget Approved

LD1901113590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani headed today's general assembly of the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC], in which members of the assembly, including the head of the budget and planning organization, and the ministers of industry, heavy industries, mines and metals, labor and social affairs, and energy and petroleum took part. They reviewed the company's proposed budget for 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] within the framework of the 5-year development plan, and approved NIOC's total capital allocations—as much as 400 billion rials—which include the Bandar Abbas and Arak refinery projects, the second phase of the Kangan refinery, and the Esfahan refinery oil production unit.

According to a Central News Unit report, the commissioning of the refineries in Arak and Bandar Abbas in 1994 will ensure the country will no longer be dependent on the import of oil products. The commissioning of the Esfahan refinery oil production unit in 1990 will ensure that oil imports, which presently cost more than $100 million annually, can be halted.

IRGC Official Interviewed on Restructuring

NC1601120190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0655 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Interview with Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, chief of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, by unidentified correspondent in the "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps" program from the "Voice of the Front" feature—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr Zolqadr, thank you for giving us some of your time. Can you give our listeners details of the programs envisaged to upgrade the level of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] in fulfilling its duties and mission as well as of the planned changes in the administrative and organizational structure of the Guards Corps?

[Zolqadr] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With salutations to the martyr-nurturing nation. [passage omitted]

The revolution today is faced with a new set of circumstances and this provides a valuable opportunity for restructuring various organizations in the country, particularly military organizations which suffered from the imposition of certain setbacks or certain conditions regarding their role and their obligations during the course of the war. They now have the opportunity to resolve their internal problems and embark on a swift process of reconstruction. This opportunity was not available to them in the past because of the war or the emergency situation.

Therefore, the Corps, which has entered a new phase of its life, should focus greater attention on departmental and organizational issues. As a first step, defining the mission of the Corps was given top priority. Praise be to God, efforts were made in this regard and the fundamental mission of the Corps was defined. The eminent leader, who is also the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, decreed the following three basic obligations of the Corps: armed defense of the revolution, the establishment and organization of a 20-million strong army, and the defense of the revolution's ideals wherever the occasion demands action on the part of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

In addition to efforts to set out the mission of the Corps and to restructure its organization in conformity with its mission, some measures were also adopted on the internal organization of the Corps. The most important of these measures was the formulation of the rules and regulations for recruitment and service in the Guards Corps. [passage omitted]

The compilation of these rules and regulations is, by the grace of God, in the final stage and they are ready for presentation to the cabinet. They will then be presented to the esteemed Islamic Majles, where they will be finalized into a body of laws. Nearly all issues pertaining to service in the Corps, including training, promotion, ranks, salaries, have been considered.

[Correspondent] Mr Zolqadr, if possible can you please tell us about the latest decisions and rules approved regarding the assignment of ranks to IRGC cadres?

[Zolqadr] As I mentioned just now, the issue of ranks was discussed and approved within the framework of future recruitment to the Corps. The Corps is part of the Armed Forces and a military body and as such it must adhere to and be bound by a series of definite and inviolable regulations concerning military hierarchy. The experience gained by the Corps in its capacity as an Armed Forces organization proved that we must abide by these regulations.

After detailed assessments, we concluded that the Corps, like all other branches of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, should be structured on a system of ranks. Obviously the level of individual capacity varies, aptitude differs, and ranks serve to accentuate an individual's performance in an organization, to point out the tasks he can perform, his ability, and so on. A system of ranks clarifies the levels on which individuals can work and the fields where they will achieve optimal performance. These factors motivated us to institute the system of ranks which has been completed, praise be to God. We have submitted our proposals to the headquarters of the commander in chief, who is the highest authority for making decisions on issues pertaining to the Armed Forces. It appears that there are no major impediments to their approval. When these matters are discussed at the respected Islamic Majles and approved by the (?deputies), the recruitment bill will thus be approved and implemented.

*New Appointments to Various Ministries Announced

90OI0130A London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jan 90 p 2

[Text]

- Ministry of Defense: Mahmud Pakravan (nonmilitary) deputy foreign minister. Previously he served two successive terms as deputy to former ministers of the Revolution Guards.
- Ministry of the Interior: Engineer 'Abdol 'Ali Hamid, governor general of Yazd. Engineer Esma'il Mofidi, governor general of Mazandaran. Brigadier General Dr Malek-Nezhad, chief of the Gendarmerie hospital.
- Ministry of the Revolutionary Guards (Vice-Regency of the Chief Theologian Section): Sheykh Ebrahim Razini, coordinating deputy minister; Sheykh 'Abdolnabi Namazi, chief of Revolution Guards ideological and political education; Sheykh Navab, deputy in charge of the Vice-Regency of the Chief Theologian Representation Section. It is to be noted that in the Revolution Guards there is a Vice-Regency of the Chief Theologian Representation Section, all of whose members are clergymen who support Khamene'i. Khamene'i has appointed one person as representative of the vice-regent and one person also as the deputy representative of the vice-regent (Sheykh Mohammad 'Araqi) in the Revolution Guards.
- Foreign Ministry: Javad Mansuri (formerly deputy minister), ambassador to Pakistan; Akbar Aminiyan, general legal manager; Hoseyn Panahi-Azari, general manager of Majles affairs.
- Ministry of Commerce: Mohammad Reza Yazdani-Khorram, deputy minister for executive affairs and manager of the Foundation of the Oppressed Motor Group.
- Ministry of Justice—Sheyikh Mohammad Ja'far Montazeri, deputy minister for legal and Majles affairs.
- Ministry of Heavy Industries—Seyyed Mohammad Reza 'Adeli, deputy minister for administrative and financial affairs.
- Ministry of Energy: Naser Reza'i, deputy minister for legal and Majles affairs.
- Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Affairs: Dr Ahmad 'Ameri, chief of the Hamadan College of Medical Sciences.
- Ministry of Culture and Higher Education: Sheykh 'Ali Sheykh ol-Eslam, chief of the Teacher Training University.

*Clergy Condemns Montazeri's 'Conspiracy'

90OI0130C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Qom—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent: Following recent comments by Mr Montazeri opposing the Imam of the nation's advice and undercutting the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday after the unifying and enemy-defeating Friday prayer was held in Qom, thousands of clergymen, scholars, and ever-present on the scene people held a grand demonstration to condemn these remarks.

These people, carrying pictures of his holiness the imam of the nation (may God have mercy on him) and His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, chanting slogans such as "We are not of Kufeh, let 'Ali remain alone," "Death to the liberal," "Death to opposition to the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult," "God's hand is over our head, Khamene'i is our leader," left the al-Qods prayer site to gather in front of Mr Montazeri's house. At this site, where the slogans were given with greater passion and heat, the assembled people condemned every kind of plot against the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Then one of the demonstrators, in a talk, discussed the acts of the aforementioned party and the view of his holiness the imam concerning him. He warned against any kind of plot against the government and the officials and announced: The Hezbollah nation has never forgotten and will not forget the way and the views of the imam, and they will not allow people to have other ideas.

This gathering ended at 14:20 hours with a prayer for the preservation of the Islamic government and the health and long life of the leader of the revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Our correspondent's report from Qom states that one of the demonstrators, himself a combatant who was at the fronts for 4 years, said in an interview concerning his motivation for participating in the demonstration: We learned that Mr Montazeri had again said the same things that had offended and disturbed the imam, and since he had not heeded the warnings and advice from his holiness the imam that he not intervene in politics or do scholarly work, we wanted to tell him, by participating in this demonstration, that the people of the Hezbollahi nation are always awake and that they will look after the revolution.

*Demonstration Against Montazeri Noted

90OI0130B London KEYHAN in Persian 11 Jan 90 pp 1-2

[Text] The streets near the home of Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom saw a demonstration by a group of many revolutionary guards and Hezbollahis this Friday, marching from the Friday prayer site to Montazeri's home.

In this demonstration, a large number of Majles deputies also participated and chanted slogans against Montazeri.

The anti-Montazeri demonstration began after the Friday prayer according to a prior plan, and the Qom Friday prayer participants went as a group to the home of Montazeri. All the way there they chanted "death to opposition to the vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult" and "Death to the liberal." When they reached

Montazeri's door, they remained a long while in the vicinity of the house and chanted slogans in support of Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Islamic Republic radio did not broadcast news of this demonstration, but this week's Saturday edition of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, while confirming the news of the demonstration against Ayatollah Montazeri, wrote that thousands of people chanted against the positions of Ayatollah Montazeri and said that his positions weaken the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The demonstration against Ayatollah Montazeri followed statements issued by him recently against the policies of Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and other clergymen who have taken over affairs in Iran.

Ayatollah Montazeri, while criticizing current conditions in the country, has questioned the policies of the people in power and their ability to manage the nation.

The Liberation Front Congress

Last week the Iran Liberation Front [Nehzat-e Azadi-ye Iran], led by Engineer Bazargan, held its congress in Tehran after a period of silence.

According to unconfirmed reports, the Revolution Guards intended to prevent this congress from being held, but the police prevented the revolutionary guards from intervening and the congress was held. Another report states that this congress was held secretly without the knowledge of the Tehran police.

The Liberation Front has not yet been able to obtain official authorization for its political activities. According to a report from Tehran, the demonstration against Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom was organized after the Liberation Front Congress met in Tehran, based on the likelihood that Engineer Bazargan and his group are in contact with Ayatollah Montazeri.

During the demonstration against Ayatollah Montazeri, there was no reaction from his supporters in Qom, and according to the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, the demonstration ended peacefully.

Report on Proceedings of 12 Dec Majles Session

PM1101151090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] The Majles held an open session yesterday which was at first chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi and later chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. The session was opened with recitations from the holy Koran. Messrs Kabiri and Ranjbar, deputies from Marvdasht and Some'e-Sara were the pre-agenda speakers. Then the deputies' notices to the executive officials of the country were read out, after which the Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the only subject on the Majles agenda was continued discussion on the bill dealing with the 5-year economic, cultural and social plan for the nation. Several footnotes to the bill were discussed.

Here are the speeches given by the pre-agenda speakers and the full text of the discussions:

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's Majles session was Qanbar (Ahmad) Kabiri, the deputy from Marvdasht, who in his speech commented on a speech by another deputy the week before and said: Unlike him, who attacked unidentified people in a cloud of mystery, I have no intention of attacking anyone. I will answer some of his remarks by using words of the Imam. My reason for this is not to defend myself, or a specific group, or the past government, or a specific person. I only feel that attacks have begun against a number of values. If the Hezbollah people and the deputies faithful to the ideals of the Imam do not make a stand now to confront this trend, it might be repeated in the future, in another way.

Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi began his speech on 6 December by saying this and that, and noting he was speaking as an independent deputy. The way he spoke, it sounded as if everyone else is somehow dependent. Of course he did not say who the other deputies were supposed to be linked to. Are they connected to the East or to the West or to a special faction? It is as if he is the only independent deputy around.

Attacking one faction from beginning to end: it is not even an attack against a faction but rather a set of values. He said that the start of the work of the "active" government meant an end to the government of "slogans"—action and less talk. The government of "slogans" that Mr Sho'leh is speaking about is the same government that the Imam supported time and again. I think he is late in his thinking. There were many people who attacked that government and there were many who thought that attacking the government was a matter of prestige. But I am telling you that first of all that government was not one of slogans, but was rather a government which took the matters of this country in hand during the most difficult times.

He then quoted the Imam, in support of the previous government, and said: How can you say the government did not do anything? This is the government which for 8 years, during the most turbulent period of the revolution, managed the country. Of course it is easy to sit and swear at them.

I just want to say that we cannot defend the previous government today, but that attacks against the previous government are attacks against those same values that the Imam defended and attacks against those thoughts that the Imam always emphasized.

It has only been a few months since the death of the Imam and we are allowing ourselves to call the previous period one of "slogans," saying that the "active" period has only just begun. Of course I am certain that when our dear and respected brother Mr Hashemi, the president, said that his government was one that was going to do some work, his intention was not to bring the last 10 years into question. He himself said that he was one of the responsible people of the last 10 years. Mr Hashemi made those remarks as head of the legislative authority.

How can we now become more Catholic than the pope and with the excuse of wanting to support Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, attack a series of pure values of the past? I must respond to Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi and those who think like him when they say that the achievement of this "working" government is that it has brought forth some programs. Well, Mr Sa'adi was in the Majles so he should know that this program, which he is using now to attack the previous government and many traditional values; this is the same program that the previous government slaved over to complete. Has Mr Hashemi not admitted to this himself several times? How could a new government prepare a 5-year plan in this detail in a matter of a few months?

He said our problem is not hard currency but rather guts. I want to tell him that we have a lot of guts—standing face to face with the East and West the way we did. For a country to manage itself and have the whole world as an enemy takes a lot of guts.

That is what is being viewed as having no guts. We have economic problems but we have to stand on our own two feet and sort them out.

Then they made up excuses that there are pressure groups which are not allowing the government of Mr Hashemi to get on with its work. Well, come and identify these groups. Perhaps someone in a private session expresses his views in a friendly manner to the president saying: Mr President, we feel that in 8 years of war the government did not borrow money, so it should not borrow now. Is this a pressure group? If someone says we must safeguard our values even at the cost of many difficulties, is this being part of a pressure group? Does this make you a supporter of the government and us a pressure group?

Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi, you said that [words illegible] are scared of losing their slogans so they do not allow the government to do its work. Now you recognize yourself as a legal specialist. I am a deputy and I find myself being addressed by your remarks. If they take this to court they have to examine the dozens of accusations you have made against a large group within this Majles and in the country as a whole.

Should we say whatever comes to our mind and whatever we like just because we have open microphones in front of us?

They say that you believe the end justifies the means. Do we believe that the end justifies the means or justifies you and the likes of you who come into a place of legal standing and act like a political party wanting to get rid of everyone else?

Mr Kabiri added: At this time I wish to thank the respected Council of Guardians which approved of all those on the list of the Tehran election board and solved this problem. By doing this, they prevented some illegal actions. Of course it is clear for whom the end justifies the means.

Also in connection with Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi's speech, Mr Kabiri said: It is very interesting that he has asked if there is a difference between one jurisconsult and another. How is that you have all of a sudden become a devoted fan of the supreme jurisconsult and we—God forbid—against it? It is a matter of pride for us to be able to say that we were students of the Imam, that we obeyed that great person. And today we are proud to be followers of the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i and we identify ourselves as his followers. It is very interesting for the new supporters of the jurisconsult to come forth like this and say there is no difference between this jurisconsult and that. We say there is no difference but now you have to come forth and say why it has made a difference for you and some of your friends. What has been the difference which made it possible to stand against the jurisconsult in the past?

Then they came and asked: Why do you recognize the law to be against revolutionary values? They said we believed there would not be a revolution if there was law and order. Then they said the aim was to create daily problems for the "working" government of Mr Hashemi so it could not take on the tasks at hand and, instead, spend another 10 years doing useless things. Perhaps he himself did not pay attention to the meaning of what he was saying which in effect meant that we have spent the past 10 years doing useless things.

But we say no. Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi, you may consider this to be useless and futile amusement—you who have kept your hands well out of the fire. Have the past 10 years been useless or have they been 10 years full of pride? Ten years during which our people have been able to rely on God and obey the leader to stand firm against the powers of the world and even defend themselves? This is what you call 10 useless years. Perhaps for you it was useless amusement because we can expect nothing else from you.

Then they said there must be judicial and economic security so that, first of all, the brain drain caused by improper confrontations, can be reversed, and second, so the capital that has gone into intermediary activity because of a lack of security, be put into production. All officials in this country have said again and again that the doors are open to those who have left. But the Imam has said that these people should not come back and begin demanding things from the revolution. They should come back and quietly get on with their work. This means today we have to bribe the people who left their country and their people in the most sensitive times. Now we have to apologize and say we are sorry. The Imam in his message to the clergy said: They can come back but they must not demand things. They must not ask why we fought the war and why we said death to the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]. Of course Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi's remarks require weighty response.

The people's deputy from Marvdasht concluded his speech by commenting on Mr Sho'leh Sa'idi's remarks about eliminating tensions in OPEC. He said: How long do we have to compromise with reactionary rulers such as the al-Saud and the rulers of Kuwait? Cutting tension means we must raise our hands and give in.

The second and last pre-agenda speaker was Mr Ranjbar, the deputy from Some'e-Sara, who started by expressing condolences on the death anniversary of the great lady of Islam, Zahra—peace be unto her and her family.

He then remarked on the speech made by Mr Kabiri before him and said: What Mr Kabiri mentioned about the problems in Mr Sho'leh Sa'adi's remarks with regard to destroying values and the past government and the things that were done, may be right. But dear brother, why did you not mention the speeches given on 10 December by some of the gentlemen in this Majles who stepped on values and insulted the opposing faction?

The speaker then talked about the Council of Guardians approving Mr Behzad Nabavi's credentials and said: I thank the respected Council of Guardians for approving the credentials of Mr Behzad Nabavi, thereby showing that it is not linked to one or another faction. It shows the piety of those dear ones who at this sensitive time recognized what is best for the regime over all other matters. This comes from the thoughts of the great Imam—peace be unto him—who on many occasions preserved the dignity of individuals to safeguard the interests of the regime.

We have not forgotten how during the approval of some of the gentlemen for the Second Majles, several prominent and dedicated deputies, such as the late Ayatollah Rabbani Amlashi—may peace be unto him—and others, carried out their religious duty and objected to one of the gentlemen. This was brought to the Imam's attention and he prevented this opposition from being mentioned in the Majles because he felt that was what was best for the regime. This meant that the credentials of that deputy were approved without further discussion. The respected deputies can refer back to the files dealing with elections for the Second Majles to confirm my remarks.

Mr Ranjbar talked about the attacks of some of the deputies in the 10 December session and said: You dear deputies are aware that there were some things said during the open session on Sunday 10 December 1989 with regard to the elections and the actions of election supervisory committees in charge of the mid-term Majles elections, which were addressed to a certain faction. There was talk of the closure of the Hojjatiyeh Society, the Liberation Movement and the Islamic Republic Party by the Imam—peace be unto him—in such a way as to praise their own faction and crush the other side. This is why we deemed it necessary to mention a few things with regard to the nature of the issue.

It was said that the election supervisory committee does not have the right to reject the credentials of a candidate once he has been approved by the executive council. But this contradicts Article 8 footnote 3 of the rules governing Majles elections which was passed as law on 8 March 1984 at a formal session of the Council of Guardians. The law says: The central supervisory body will, if necessary, look directly into the credentials of candidates to see if they meet the requirements and will go to the Council of Guardians for appropriate action if necessary. So you see the central supervisory body has done nothing wrong.

The deputy continued his speech by saying: It was said, you cannot make laws. You cannot pass the tax laws properly. You did not believe in cooperatives and considered them to be a communist concept. Your kind of thinking has prevented the labor law from being passed.

I must tell you that in fact this is quite true. Because, while you are there it will be very difficult to pass laws that would remove obstacles in the path of production; get people and ministries involved in economic, agricultural, trade, and production work; increase jobs; eliminate unemployment; and gradually remove corruption by the roots.

The labor law which was rejected by a Council of Guardians elected by the Imam and the Faqih, what good is it? That cooperative law which ignores religious principles itself, which does not have the approval of the Council of Guardians, will do no good for Muslims at all. We want Majles laws passing through the doors of the Council of Guardians which will satisfy the Lord and the Faqih of the Muslims and, as a final step, be approved by the Expediency Discernment Council. This is the difference between you and us. Those who do not respect the supervision of the Council of Guardians over Majles laws must change their way of thinking.

With regard to the closure of the Islamic Republic Party [IRP], the deputy from Somo'e-Sara said: It was said that the Imam closed the doors on the Hojjatiyeh Society, the Liberation Movement, and the Islamic Mojahedin Organization in such a way that no one would be able to open them. But this is not true. The Imam—peace be unto him—did not close any doors. It was pure Islam that created obstacles for these deviated organizations. The Imam never closed the IRP and he did not want to see this party closed down. What caused the closure of the IRP was the blow delivered against it. All the problems between the people and Hezbollah, between various clerics and so forth, were blamed on the party.

All this caused Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was one of the leading members of the IRP, the leader of the world's Muslims Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, who was then secretary general of the IRP, and several other dedicated and responsible clerics who were members of the IRP central council, to ask the Imam to close the party down to avoid differences between the people with the wishes of these dear ones, and if the jurisconsult decides that it would be to the advantage of the country, the party will begin its work again and no one will be able to do anything about it. It should also be said that there were some who were against the party to please the disgraced Bani Sadr, but they were also against martyr Beheshti: perhaps they still are.

The martyr-rearing people of Iran know that the ideology that wanted to nationalize everything brought high prices, varying prices for the same items, large quantities of floating cash, insufficient effort toward production, and an unfair distribution system of goods needed by the people, including building materials. If anyone said in the Majles that people should be put in charge of things, they used to shout that the Americans were coming; the capitalists were coming; that we were becoming dependent; and a 1,000 other slogans.

The power of the Second Majles was completely in your hands. Why is it that your economic message did not reach the people? Despite the fact that the state punishment law was put into effect and placed at your disposal to fight high prices and hoarding, the problems did not increase and the prices continued to go up. The truth is that during the past 5 or 6 months, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani has taken control of the country with his cabinet: things have not changed. So those narrow-minded people who fear the people's getting rich, who want everything to be under the control of the government, who are in favor of red tape and silly laws in trade and agriculture, should know that these things do not run the country, that this can only be done with the cooperation of the people.

Mr Ranjbar then talked about the election of Mr Zavvare'i to head the national organization of notary publics and said: You brought up the subject of merging the notary publics with statistics bureaus after Mr Zavvare'i was chosen for his new job, yet the two offices have nothing to do with one another. One is part of the executive power and the other is part of the judicial power. What is it about this Islamic Republic that as soon as someone takes over a new post there are plans put into place for him?

The deputy from Some'e-Sara concluded his speech by mentioning a few things about his constituency. He asked officials to look into those matters.

Mr Karrubi gave a speech during which he expressed his condolences to the Muslims of the world on the occasion of the death anniversary of the dear daughter of the Prophet, the great Fatimeh Zahra—peace be unto her and her family. He added: We hope that the entire Islamic ummah, especially the ladies, obey Her Excellency Zahra in their behavior, their speech, and their simple style of living to help Islam progress and to obey the rules of Islam. We hope that the life of Zahra—peace be unto her and her family—will be a role model for them all.

It has been about 15 years since our society has had a revolution. The filthy culture of the West departed and the pure and true Islamic culture took over. Much blood has been shed to get rid of Western culture and replace it with Islamic culture. Our people have tolerated a great deal of hardship in the process.

Our sisters must to pay attention to this point. Of course the great masses of our sisters are proud to be followers of Zahra, and they follow to the smallest detail all of Islam's regulations. But there is a small minority of sisters who have not quite adapted themselves to Islamic culture. We want them to pay attention to the words of Zahra and to her life. We want them not to provoke the emotions of our people, to obey the codes of Islamic dress, to stay away from improper clothing because that is an insult to the struggles; to the blood shed for this cause.

In another part of his speech, the speaker of the Majles talked about the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dastgheyb and added: Yesterday, 11 December, was the anniversary of the martydom of the great, wise, and tolerant Ayatollah Seyyed 'Abdol Hoseyn Dastgheyb. He was a man of struggle, science, a writer, a speaker, and a personality we all knew well. He was in the service of the revolution from the beginning until his martyrdom. He tolerated all the hardship. His speeches were exciting. He went to jail many times yet he never once forgot his evening prayers, even in prison. Alongside the strong spirit this great person had, we both congratulate and wish our condolences to the Hezbollah ummah, the people of Fars Province, the dear Dastgheyb family and especially to his son Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hashem Dastgheyb who is both the son of a martyr and the father of a martyr.

The only subject on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was the bill dealing with the 5-year plan. Several of its footnotes were passed.

Footnote 6: The government has the duty to expand and revitalize deprived areas in accordance with each area's conditions and special capabilities and to create local [unintelligible word] in this manner:
A. Creating adequate facilities to decrease the administrative charge for loans granted for agriculture, industry, and housing in deprived areas.
B. Providing a tax cut to productive employment in deprived areas until the end of the plan.
C. Providing discounts in the cost of welfare projects and public services such as water, gas, electricity, and telephone.
D. Giving priority to preparing the way for building government housing and subsidizing some of the cost of the end product in deprived areas.
E. Facilitating the work of the government and the private sector.

F. Creating proper means and methods to obtain, keep, and safeguard the manpower needed in deprived areas.
G. Establishing the proper order of priority in the execution of social, basic, and public plans in deprived areas.
H. Achieving self-sufficiency in the field of manpower, particularly in specialized fields, by observing the following points:
1. Covering all persons working in deprived areas.
2. Creating and expanding boarding schools in various areas, and creating special schools and teacher training centers.
3. Creating and expanding centers of higher learning in the centers and towns in deprived areas or in towns nearby to train the manpower necessary for the area and increasing the university-entrance quota from the deprived areas.

I. The judicial power has the duty to create the necessary courts in towns in deprived areas or in nearby towns, and courts specializing in tribal affairs.

Footnote 7: The government has the duty to form a commission comprised of members of the economic council; the ministers of the interior, housing, and urban planning; the appropriate minister from the ministry involved; the governor general of the province involved; and two representatives from the province. This commission must be introduced to the Majles. In accordance with the suggestions from the plan and budget organization and within the framwork of the logistics of the area involved, it must take the following actions:
a. Establish a basic demographic framework for their actions within the national borders.
b. Establish the basic principles of expansion and logistics' policies for the provinces.
c. Establish policies of expansion in the social, economic, and cultural fields in each of the country's provinces.
d. Implement projects and government welfare plans.
e. Establish policies to give direction to the investments made by the private sector. Any kind of investment, from government or private sources, must be made within the programs of the said commission.

Some of the deputies asked that footnote number 7 be crossed off and it was removed.

Footnote 8: The government has the duty to revise the direct taxation law within 6 months of this bill being passed to attract investment and guarantee a proper level of profits in various fields. It must present to the Majles the means by which it intends to do this.

With regard to this footnote, some of the deputies asked that it be removed but this was not accepted. It was also suggested by the Majles industrial commission that the following replace footnote number 8:

Footnote 8: The government has the duty to revise the direct taxation law within 6 months of this bill being passed to attract investments to provide more profits in the fields of economic, industrial, mining, research, cultural, educational, medical services and health activity, and to prevent investments from being concentrated in the private sector. It must prepare this and submit it to the Majles.

This proposal was passed by the Majles.

Footnote 9: In order to promote cooperation from the people in government welfare plans, the part of this investment that is provided by the people will not be included in the accounts' law and other public regulations. This fund will come under the law governing credits and not be included in the accounts' law.

There were several proposals for this footnote which were rejected. The discussions were postponed until today's session.

*Report on 13 Dec 89 Majles Session

90O10097A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Legislative and parliamentary division—The Majles session was held yesterday, presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan presiding. In this session, after recitation of verses from the Koran, Messrs Asgharzadeh, deputy from Tehran; Musavi-Tabrizi, deputy from Tabriz; and Qazizadeh-Hashemi, deputy from Sarakhs and Fariman, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, the deputies' memos to the country's executive officials were read, and Majles went into session.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary representative, the only item on the agenda for yesterday's session was the continuation of the discussion on the five-year economic, social, and cultural plan of the country, the continuation of which was postponed to the next session.

Below, you will read the pre-agenda speeches of the deputies and the detailed discussions.

Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, Deputy From Tehran

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mr Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, deputy from Tehran. First, he offered his condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of Her Holiness Zahra and said:

At the present, a new interpretation of the relations between the East and the West has been created based on political turbulence. In fact, it is a new understanding of the economic powers in the future of the world, founded on a united Europe becoming powerful, a united Germany, a powerful Japan, the United States, and the Soviet Union. But no matter how this is interpreted in the world, our views as a Third World country, in regard to the world and the industrial and developed countries, shall be a fixed one and shall not change. Our opinion in regard to the outside world is unchanged from that of the Imam in his message to Gorbachev, warning him not to lean towards Western capitalism.

The deputy from Tehran continued: Our power in the future shall be based on a blossoming, powerful, thriving economy, an economy which is in fact supported mainly by the people. Welfare, development, and progress are now profound social, political, cultural, and economic terms and cannot be dealt with as economic indexes or indexes that are secondary to social and political issues. The discussion of economic development in a country such as ours or any country which is both a revolutionary country and a member of the Third World must be a discussion about just and revolutionary development. We cannot choose philosophies for our economic development that can fail or cause problems. All the philosophies chosen for economic development in the Third World countries, because of the lack of proper understanding of their national situation, become a sort of caricature, ridiculous in connection with industrial and developed countries. In other words, after a period of time, these countries become countries with parts of their economy growing tremendously and other parts which are very weak and chaotic. In order to ensure just, proper, and revolutionary development, we must pay attention to these two important points: First, we must have a proper model for purchasing, trading, and making a profit on the world market. Secondly, we must be able to solve our domestic problems fairly and give the opportunity to the weak and oppressed classes of the society to become economically powerful, and for their small and scattered capital to play a role in a sound and blossoming economy. I raised the question of a proper model for world trade in a discussion held in the presence of Mr Hashemi. We must act accordingly and not allow the Western world and the industrial world, which looks at us as a trade partner, to deal with us as though we are a milk cow and think that whenever it offers us goods at a lower price to keep global balance, that is where we will spend our foreign currency. In our five-year plan and for the future of our economy, we must decide where on the map and in what political culture we want to spend our foreign currency expenditures. Before we choose a model for trade and commerce, there shall exist a weak point in our developed economy or the economy that we wish to develop. More importantly, we must know how to deal with such capital and wealth which has accumulated in the hands of a select few people in the society. Unfortunately, on the basis of the regulations that exist, when we officially allow the capital in one sector to choose its way freely, it always chooses the side of power and more accumulation of wealth, which is not a national tendency but rather a tendency to accumulate more wealth for a particular group. Our 10-year experience showed that when we ignore such capital or expect to control it by moral prescriptions or invite them to invest in production sectors, they do not act as we wish but find a way themselves which is in fact contrary to our just development. This is what happened during these 10 years. During the past few months, since Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani became president with the backing of the people and the Majles, unfortunately, once again we witnessed the same thing happening. In other words, despite the plans by the government of Mr Hashemi, we know that capital that has accumulated in the hands of a select group, which has the power to maneuver and act in the society, blocks these plans of the Central Bank to lower the foreign currency rate.

This segment of the economy of the society, that is, the accumulated and monopolized capital which is in the hands of a special group, must be reformed and they must be invited to participate in a proper economic structure. Experience has shown that this approach has not been successful. Our experience has shown it. In all the countries of the world, in all the Third World countries, accumulated wealth is in the hands of the private sector, fostering dependence on foreigners. Even though the central government makes plans, they take the initiative in action, and the government plans are only a reaction to them and are in fact a step backwards. They find their own way and grow day by day. They develop and thus take over the market in the same way that we now witness, creating problems for the government economic plans.

Mr Asgharzadeh told the deputies of the opposing view point: I know there are caring people among you. Among both groups, there are people who would like to see the national economy improve. Our problem is this uncontrolled capital and wealth and the floating wealth that exists in this country and must be confronted. This is the most unfair wealth in the society. And the philosophy that we should let them go free and guide them through tax plans and price control is not correct.

The speaker added: We must give control and power to small capital and capital that has been distributed among the masses of the people so that those groups do not gain power. To do so would prevent huge amounts of wealth from being accumulated. Monopoly of wealth, monopoly of capital, and accumulation of wealth in our society as an Islamic society are condemned. We see in the many messages of the Imam the hatred and enmity that he had towards such capital, the hatred and enmity that is manifested in the slogan of the war, that is, the hostile conflict between poverty and wealth, which has always been discussed in our society and our revolution as a central revolutionary slogan. Some are not believers and think that putting an end to this slogan will enable them to open the way to an onrush of capital. I tell you here that if we allow them to, they will sell our country. The result of such capital is the major threat of foreign and U.S. influence in our country.

If we want a thriving economy in the future, we must know that our national economy must be based on the financial power of the masses.

Addressing a deputy who had suggested that some want to weaken Mr Hashemi, he responded: I tell you, except for those bullying capitalists who exist in this country, no one wishes to harm Mr Hashemi, and you can be sure that it is this capital that will be detrimental to the revolution.

In another part of his speech, Asgharzadeh complained to the honorable Council of Guardians that despite the emphasis the Imam gave to the labor law, nothing has been done so far in regard to it.

He added: We are entering a period of economic reconstruction and development which requires necessary laws to support the oppressed strata. This strata needs to be able to play a role in a developed economy rather than remain on the sidelines as a large group with little wealth at their disposal, allowing a small group to rob the greatest portion of wealth in this society and then be given an open hand to rob more—and when someone wants to say anything, they say woe be Islam. In any case, we need cooperation, empathy, and common goals in order to be able to fight the bullying current that is treacherously blocking the way for Mr Hashemi, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and our economy and economic development.

Referring to the central slogan of the revolution, quoting the Imam regarding the constant fight against the accumulators of wealth who only use their capital and wealth for personal interests, Mr Asgharzadeh said: Those who think that they can open the way for the return of capitalists, bullying owners of industries, and ultimately colonialism are mistaken.

Musavi-Tabrizi, Deputy From Tabriz

Mr Seyyed Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi, deputy from Tabriz, was the second pre-agenda speaker. Referring to the visit of the president to Azarbaijan and thanking him, he said: His visit to Azarbaijan was very fruitful for us. He saw our problems first hand. More rapidly than we expected, he instructed that the problems be studied, and he is most sensitively following up the issues. The people of Azarbaijan have always been fond of the combative clerics [rowhaniyat-e mobarez], particularly those such as he. We hope this hero-nurturing region of Azarbaijan, which has always shone in the history of the Islamic revolution and has been on the forefront in the history of Iranian revolutions, with the kind attention shown by this gentleman, will continue this revolutionary spirit and support Islam and the oppressed who exist there.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the five-year plan worked on in the governments of Messrs. Musavi and Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his hopes for the people and added: After 10 years, we must ultimately have a plan. A country cannot exist and cannot be properly managed without a plan. I am sure and am happy and hopeful that the honorable officials will be better able to manage the country with this plan.

The speaker then added: We all know that no one can claim that if our people did not support the revolution, not even the leadership could accomplish a thing. Our leader was one of the students of the school of the Commander of the Faithful [Amir ol-Mo'menin—title of the caliphs, especially 'Ali, the successor and son-in-law of Mohammad]. The Commander of the Faithful says: Those who use their wings to rise will succeed. 'Ali did not become victorious against Mo'avieh because the people did not support 'Ali. No leader of ours was greater than 'Ali. Our leader was most proud that he was one of the students of the school of 'Ali. Hence, despite all his greatness, he said: Who am I? It is the people who did it; the people brought you to this point. I swear to God it is most unfair to forget the people who made us victorious.

Continuing his speech, Mr Musavi-Tabrizi requested that Mr Karrubi, the Majles speaker, publish a book showing to which stratum the families of the martyrs belong.

In this connection, he emphasized: Even if our program is successful without taking into consideration the families of the martyrs, it would not be revolutionary and Islamic. The deputy from Tabriz then referred to the five-year plan and said: In the five-year plan, much attention has been paid to issues, but who should enforce them? Do we want to have everything done by the officials in charge or not? Have we anticipated, in the plan, what facilities we have provided for the many young people in the country who have the intelligence and ability to work and can be constructive and creative for the country? Has the executive branch thought to prevent the capitalists from making use tomorrow of most of the banking facilities or, in connection with housing, to prevent those who are the most powerful from financially making use of it and leaving the rest in the cold? Has anyone thought about this?

In connection with production, he said; We value those who produce. But there is a difference between doing productive work and producing wage earners. In this country, a country which has a large young labor force, everyone should produce without being a wage earner. What has been decided in connection with the participation of the people so that everyone can be productive? What steps do we want to take in this regard? Or in regard to cooperatives in which people want to participate, has attention been paid in the five-year plan to the government being able at least to provide them with banking and other facilities.

Referring to the issue of borrowing, Mr Musavi-Tabrizi said: Lending means borrowing, borrowing for an individual and a private family. No one wants to borrow except in an emergency. Hence, it is an emergency that creates debt for us. We do not say borrowing is a bad thing, but we do request that the president pay attention to the persons from whom we borrow so as not to destroy our revolutionary honor, to ensure that our dignity is not destroyed while we are borrowing, and to preserve our independence. Borrowing must be a source of future investment.

In conclusion, he referred to the elections and ask the people to continue their presence on the scene most powerfully and to vote for committed, revolutionary individuals who believe in the revolution, the Imam, and the leader.

Qazizadeh-Hashemi, Deputy From Sarakhs and Fariman

Mr Qazizadeh-Hashemi, the deputy from Sarakhs, Fariman, and Ahmadabad, was the last pre-agenda speaker. First referring to the five-year plan, he said: No one opposes the plan, but planning is too weak and sensitive for us to deal with mechanically. We claim that we are neither Eastern nor Western. We claim that we want to move in a direction in which human beings are central, not profit and the interests of a particular group. But now that the first five-year plan of our country since the revolution is on the agenda of this Majles, there are two strategies in it worth contemplating. (1) The strategy of the expansion of exports, which was designed in the decade of the 1980's by the international organizations, and followed not merely by one country but more than 30 Third-World countries, and we only have South Korea, Hong Kong, and Singapore as examples of this strategy. The rest have had problems which still continue. (2) The strategy of replacing imports, which was implemented in the fourth and fifth plans before the revolution and faced defeat. Hence, if we act according to the frameworks of the strategies which we have inherited from before the revolution, we shall once again face the same calamities that we faced before and which the Third World countries are facing.

He then added: Essentially, the countries in the world are sending signals that they want to establish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs must deal with these signals seriously, and should not choose silence in response to the statement of the British government in regard to establishing relations with the Islamic Republic. Salman Rushdi has violated the national security or our country. Until the position of the British government is announced in regard to the ratification of the Majles and it apologizes to the Muslim people, there will be no talk of establishing relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and England. The minister of foreign affairs of our country must give the necessary response to the signals of these countries.

Continuing his speech, the speaker protested the occupation of the dormitory of al-Zahra University by the students of the Free Islamic University and said: Recently, the minister of culture and higher education purchased a building to be used as a dormitory for the students of Tehran's al-Zahra University, which was unfortunately illegally occupied by the students of the Free Islamic University, who have not yet left it. If there is no other way to protect this building from this occupation, it will be enough for the president of the Free Islamic University to announce to these students that if they do not vacate the building, they will be suspended for one semester, and the problem will be resolved. I must remind you that the students of the Free University, generally speaking, enjoy financial security and should not be occupying the dormitory of the students of government universities. Unfortunately, the Free Islamic University is expanding throughout Tehran, even though initially it was supposed to expand in other cities.

In connection with the implementation of the amendment of the law of Paragraph D, Note 51, of the 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] budget law, the Ministry of Interior must expedite the appointment of 16 governors for the new cities of the country. Unfortunately, it has been 3 months since there has been a governor and lieutenant governor in the border city of Sarakhs. The people of the border region of Sarakhs expect the honorable minister of interior, with the cooperation of the honorable governor-general of Khorasan, to expedite the appointment of a strong governor and lieutenant governor for this city. I must remind you that the vast Province of Khorasan, which serves a part of the country, expects the Ministry of Interior to give priority to the appointment of the manpower in Khorasan.

Mr Qazizadeh complained about the Voice and Vision and the media not properly reporting on the Majles and said: Enlightening public opinion, raising the people's level of knowledge in various areas, and advancing the directives of the late exalted leader of the Islamic revolution are among the missions of the mass media and the press of our country. Why didn't the Voice and Vision produce and broadcast programs concerning the qualifications of the candidates of the Majles from the viewpoint of the Imam of the people during the mid-term Majles elections? Why do the press and the Voice and Vision report less detailed accounts of the news of the Majles deputies than they did in the early days of the revolution? Could it be that the statements of a Majles deputy are less important than for example the news concerning a branch director? While they publish the statements of a Majles deputy in one of the inside pages of the newspaper, the newspaper publishes an article responding to one point in the speech of a Majles deputy on the front page of the newspaper, which is not fair. I remind the honorable board of directors of the Majles that they should protect the rights of the deputies in this regard through the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

He then added: ETTELA'AT published the news and the reports on the Majles in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], but now it publishes them on half a page in small print. Of course, in reporting the news of the Majles, KEYHAN has had the best record. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, RESALAT, and ABRAR also report well on the open session of the Majles on the following day. Also, KHORASAN newspaper does well in reporting on the Province of Khorasan.

He continued: I must remind you that rule of law is the necessary condition for preserving security in society, and it is necessary for the honorable deputies of the Majles, by offering a legislative proposal, to amend the Majles election law and its final ratification, even if it is necessary to have the Expediency Discernment Council determine the interests of the regime, correct any ambiguity or personal interpretation of this law, and thus prevent the distinguished Majles in the new phase of reconstruction from any witting or unwitting political conflict with the children of the Islamic revolution. Also, in some cities, the distinguished Friday imams interferred in the elections. The distinguished representatives of the leader should act as fathers in the Majles election.

Then, protesting the pre-agenda speech of Mr Sho'leh-Sa'di, the deputy from Shiraz, Mr Qazizadeh pointed out: Yesterday, Mr Kabiri criticized parts of Mr Sho'leh-Sa'di's speech, delivered last Wednesday. But, the issue is more deeply rooted. The main mission and message of the speech of Mr Sho'leh-Sa'di consists of two essential points. First, making way for Westerners and their plundering in Islamic Iran; second, eliminating the sensitivity of the people towards the new capitalism of the bullying money-grubbers. To support this theory, I call to your attention that you started by questioning the methods of the past 10 years. First, you spoke about the end of the government of slogans and the start of the reconstruction phase in the government of hard work. You showed that relations with the United States and the West is the solution, and then you questioned the Imam of the people, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, and the 10 years of struggle of this nation and the efforts of the country's officials. Then you questioned the Imam's view regarding the Soviet Union. You said as long as we consider the whole world as indebted to us, we will be unable to understand the realities and new international conditions. You explicitly stated: Did our great Imam not call the northern neighbor an aggressor for years? Was he not the first person to recognize the changes and take the initiative in sending messages and letters to Mr Gorbachev? Have you forgotten that the Imam of the people warned the Soviet Union not to fall into the lap of the West? With these statements, wittingly or unwittingly, you became a spokesman for the Westerners and questioned the Imam's positions. The Imam's message to Mr Gorbachev occurred when the hostilities between Iran and the Soviet Union were eliminated.

He then added: In another part of your speech, you destroyed the anti-capitalism slogans and the slogans defending the oppressed. You spoke about people abandoning these slogans and spoke of capital and those who do not feel at ease. You thus made the government of the wealthy a common matter for the people and then presented yourself as anti-Western and others as supporters of the West, which is an argument Mr Asgharzadeh talked about, one which requires discussion at another opportunity. I have nothing to say to Mr Sho'leh-Sa'di, but those who should be spending their time here and there doing their legal duty and spend it instead in France and practically become advisors to foreign companies must be controlled.

In conclusion, he pointed out: Another detriment to the revolution is the elimination of the Hezbollahi forces from the executive and educational organizations of the country, concerning which Ayatollah Jannati felt the threat and expressed his anxiety in the Friday sermons in Qom.

Details of the Discussions

The first agenda item of yesterday's open Majles session was continuation of the examination of the bill for the five-year plan.

Note 9: In order to attract the increased cooperation and participation of the people in the implementation of the government developmental plans, that portion of the funds of such plans which are collected from the people as self-help shall be exempted from the accounting law and other general regulations and subjected to the procedures for spending funds not subject to the accounting law.

Note 10: In implementing Article 147 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in order to make use of the expertise and capabilities of the armed forces and the Ministry of Defense in supporting the armed forces in the reconstruction of the country, the above executive units are permitted, with consideration for the expertise, capabilities, and capacities of the forces under their supervision, to sign contracts with executive organizations to implement the developmental plans and projects. All funds received for the above-mentioned contracts, which are included in the budget law of every year, are considered allocated and shall be placed by the treasury at the disposal of the related force and the Ministry of Defense and support of the armed forces to be spent on strengthening the related forces and replacing worn-out machinery.

The implemental bylaws of this note shall be prepared by the Ministries of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Economic Affairs and Finance as well as the Plan and Budget Organization and ratified by the Cabinet.

Note 11: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (urban land organization) is responsible, in all cities, to take possession of lands or educational, cultural, service, and health facilities ratified by urban plans for the creation and development of schools and cultural, artistic, athletic, health, and educational centers and place them free of charge at the disposal of related organizations. Should there be a cost for the possession of the above-mentioned lands, the funds can be added equally to the price of other residential units sold in all cities and collected from purchases, or steps can be taken to transfer other land in exchange to the owners of such lands.

B: City halls shall be responsible to rapidly report the lands and uses mentioned in Paragraph A of that note on the basis of comprehensive guidance and detailed, ratified plans, and at the time of the implementation of the above-mentioned plans, to issue construction permits through those organizations, bypassing the procedures for construction permits.

The implemental bylaws of this note shall be prepared within 3 months of the ratification of this law, with the cooperation of the Ministries of Interior; Housing and Urban Development; Education; Culture and Higher Education; Health, Treatment, and Medical Training; and Culture and Islamic Guidance; and the Physical Education Organization and ratified by the Cabinet.

Continuation of the discussion was postponed to the next session.

The Last Item on the Agenda

The last item on the agenda was the amendment proposal of the parliamentary group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, member of the inter-parliamentary union, which was offered to the Majles with top priority.

In regard to top priority for the proposal, Mr Sedqiani spoke in opposition to and Mr Kheyrkhah in support of the proposal. Then the issue of top priority was put to a vote and ratified.

The Majles will hold a session on Sunday morning next week.

*Report on 20 Dec 89 Majles Session

90OI0103A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Mr Ha'erizadeh, Birjand deputy, spoke as the only pre-agenda speaker. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports: The only item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the bill on the five-year plan for the economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, several notes of which were approved by the deputies.

Printed below are Mr Ha'erizadeh's speech, memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials, and the detailed proceedings.

Seyyed 'Abol-Hasan Ha'erizadeh, Birjand Deputy

The only pre-agenda speaker for yesterday's public Majles session was Mr Ha'erizadeh, Birjand deputy, who explained some of the verses in the Koran and discussed the Muslim concept of equity as one of the most fundamental objectives mentioned in the Koran for sending the prophets. He said: One of the basic matters that we must attend to in the five-year plan is the matter of Islamic equity. Here we must make it precisely clear, that is the Plan and Budget Commission and the respected deputies must realize that the procurement of basic needs, described in Paragraph 1, Article 43, is the matter of food, clothing, and suitable housing. They must set figures to provide health care, medicine, education, and training for everyone. Let them state, for these 5 years, how much money have we set aside for clothing the majority of people, or all of those who are truly most in need? For clothing, food, and housing? In these 5 years, to what degree will we progress implementing Paragraph One of Article 43 of the Constitution, which is a basic responsibility of the government?

He added: What is under discussion here with regard to the issues of the plan is a series of higher issues than those capacities that are usually dealt with, because when figures in the billions are discussed with regard to exports, in some cases you compare figures on our non-petroleum exports other than carpets, because after all in the five-year plan some of the figures must be multiplied 80, 90, or 100 times. How can it be that our export resources will be multiplied by 100 in 5 years? On the other hand, when we want to export, some of the machinery we do not have must be equipped and rebuilt.

How much money in dollars do we have, that we are going to use only for rebuilding factories, some of which have not been rebuilt? If they specify the exports of these dollars, how much is it? They want to build new warehouses so that the export markets will not have to wait for us. There must be warehouses, that goods can be sent in succession, current warehouses, built for past needs, are not sufficient. Let them say how much this will cost. Let them take the volume of billions in exports and imports into consideration, for which our ports are not sufficient. On the one hand the spare parts are not in the warehouses, they are empty, and in this period they economized. Sufficient spare parts must exist to equip these very factories, continue their work, and preserve the organizations.

He also said: If it were to be stated how much foreign exchange we will set aside for spare parts in these factories, on the other hand if electricity or water or something else is cut off in the foreign markets and it creates problems in production, they will not wait for the goods to arrive later, more goods would have to be stored in the warehouses so that they could be sent to the export markets immediately. Assuming they might say that the export markets will want more in proportion to the size of the warehouses, they must give the figures on the foreign exchange needed to be saved up in a few months to do some investing in those warehouses in order to be able to reach those markets, otherwise it will be something imaginary. The figures mentioned in Note 29 have not been collected in a table. I ask the respected deputies to write down whatever figures are mentioned in each paragraph of Note 29.

The government and the Central Bank are required to guarantee credit for all the paragraphs in Note 29. If the government cannot pay the guarantees in time, then buy-backs will be used. Whatever it is, if the government cannot pay those companies will descend on it, take money and foreign exchange, and there will be no money for necessary tasks. If someone with two million tomans undertakes to build ten houses, not any of the ten houses will get anywhere. They will remain half-finished, none will get anywhere. It is good to fly high, to proceed optimistically, but it is dangerous.

Mr Ha'erizadeh discussed foreign borrowing. He said: Professor Ahmad 'Akkas, an Algerian researcher and economist, in the book "Foreign Capital—Economic Freedom," portrays the Algerian experience, and the experience of foreign investment is the same for all developing countries. As the level of foreign investment increases and as greater use is made of this source of foreign exchange, the damage to the political and economic freedom of the debtor countries also increases, and it facilitates the plunder of their natural resources, existing wealth, and manpower.

He also said: The balance of all developing non-oil-exporting countries increased from $11.3 billion in 1973 to $86.8 billion in 1982. There is therefore no room for doubt that foreign capital is a poisoned gift that gradually alienates the borrowing country from its essence and drains it from within. For this reason the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran has dealt with the question of foreign investment quite decisively. Principle 81 of the Constitution absolutely forbids the granting of concessions to foreigners to form institutions and companies in commercial, industrial, agricultural, mining, or service activities, and Principle 82 of the Constitution requires Majles approval for the government obtaining or granting loans or unilateral domestic or foreign aid. Foreign investment is a one-way process whose benefits accrue exclusively to the foreign investor, and the only way out of a cycle of futility and dependence is to mobilize national resources.

The Birjand deputy discussed the matter of creating free ports. He said: The misfortune that has befallen some countries and is mentioned in the Koran, and you will see this if you travel in the world and see what has happened to other countries, is that the free ports in countries have mainly been utilized for their cheap laborers.

In some places the cultural fabric has been unraveled. These things really must be studied and compared, these are quite sensitive issues, which I believe are deep-rooted, and these are the dangers and harm in the plan. Thought must be given to this, and, just as the government of Mr Musavi did, a bill must be brought to the Majles and the Majles must make a decision on it. The consequences of a free port on the national trade and economy are most numerous.

Detailed Proceedings

The only item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the bill on the five-year plan for the economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this regard, notes 19, 20, and 21 were studied. Proposals were submitted by some deputies regarding these notes which were not approved. The text of the notes appears below:

Note 19 - The government is authorized to establish industrial and trade free zones in a maximum of three of the nation's border regions.

Note 20 - To support production, Iranian Customs and the Ports and Shipping Organization are required within a maximum of 6 months from the date of this bill's enactment to establish special protected sites at the point of entry or at domestic customs for the purpose of providing protection and security for primary materials, parts, tools, and production materials that are imported without the transfer of foreign exchange. The import of goods for domestic consumption at these areas is subject to export and import regulations. The owners of goods may export their imported goods from these sites without any formalities.

It is necessary to note that at the suggestion of deputies Raja'i-Khorasani and Saleh-Abadi the term "by means of" was deleted from line four of Note 20.

Note 21 - The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization is authorized to market and sell its broadcasted products and art works domestically and outside the country, officially and without obtaining authorization.

The next Majles session was set for Thursday morning of next week.

The Deputies Memos to the Nation's Executive Officials

- Dr Sheybani, Tehran Deputy: To the Ministry of the Interior and the municipality, rapidly prevent the construction of a building in the open space opposite the Iran Antiquities Museum, which was formerly designated as green space. To the Ministry of the Interior and the Pastures and Urban Lands Organization, concerning lands purchased by low-income people which have been designated as urban lands despite their having documents of ownership.
- Mr Astaneh, Shazan and Sarband deputy: To the Construction Jihad Ministry and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, concerning rural roads in the Hendudar district and the procurement of water pipes for the rural areas under the jurisdiction of the Shazan Construction Jihad, expediting the beginning of construction of the refugee village. To the minister of roads and transport and the minister of agriculture, concerning converting the Shazan Department of Roads and Transport to the Roads and Transport Administration, and concerning the procurement of fertilizer, pesticides, and agricultural supplies for Kerman.

*Report on 24 Dec Majles Session

90OI0111A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday afternoon the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjaj ol-Eslam Bayat and Hashemiyan.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, the Majles agenda called for continued consideration of the five-year budget bill, several notes of which were approved by the deputies.

Printed below is the report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, which includes the letter from 167 deputies condemning America's military intervention in Panama and a statement from 160 deputies inviting the people to assemble in front of the Majles at 3:00 pm on 9/5/68 [26 December 1989] to protest American intervention in Panama, along with the details of the proceedings.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on yesterday's Majles agenda was continued consideration of the report from the Plan and Budget Commission on the bill for the first economic, social, and cultural plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note 21 - The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran Organization is authorized to market and sell its broadcasted products and art works domestically and outside the country, officially and without obtaining authorization.

Several proposals from deputies concerning this note were presented but not approved.

Note 22 - Waivers of requirements to study the prices of imported finished consumer goods given to all executive organizations (the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ministry of Petroleum and affiliated organizations) are cancelled and as of the date of this bill's enactment all imports of consumer goods will be subject to the appropriate laws and regulations.

With regard to this note, 20 deputies proposed its deletion.

Mr Aqa'i spoke in opposition, and Mr Nurollah 'Abedi spoke in favor, and after comments from the commission expert and the government's representative, a vote was taken on the proposal to eliminate Note 22 and it was approved.

Likewise, the Agricultural Commission proposed the following replacement for the government's Note 22, with the following wording:

Government Note 22 - The Ministry of Agriculture is authorized to spend 30 percent of the income from deposits pertaining to rentals, sales, and other funds obtained from nationalized, public, and government lands and other lands belonging to this ministry for the purpose of revitalizing and expanding these same lands or other lands.

After opposition from Mr Alviri and support from Mr Movahhedi-Saveji, this proposal was approved by the deputies.

Note 23 - To achieve the objectives of the plan, the government is authorized to take the following measures in the areas of management, personnel, structure, organization, and method.

1 - Transfer units of government organizations from Tehran to other parts of the country at the suggestion of the president of the republic and the appropriate minister and with the approval of the Council of Ministers.

2 - Reform the system of bonus payments to establish a proportion between employee income and the level of their efficiency.

3 - Use advanced administrative technology, especially information technology, to provide services at the desired quality and speed.

4 - Procure part of the government's manpower needs through the services of those performing compulsory military service in the executive organizations, with the approval of the Defense Council.

Guidelines for this paragraph will be approved by the Council of Ministers.

5 - Establish equilibrium between the wages and benefits of government employees in view of inflation in order to prevent the decline in their purchasing power through the granting of non-cash assistance, provided that the credit needed for this is provided in the annual budgets.

The Administration and Employment Commission proposed that this note replace Note 23:

To achieve the objectives of the plan, the government is authorized to take the following measures in the areas of management, personnel, structure, organization, and method.

1 - Transfer government and organization units and units that in some way make use of government resources as well as institutions required to give their names under the law and private institutions making use of government resources, as proposed by the appropriate minister and with the approval of the Council of Ministers.

2 - Dissolve and consolidate some organizations affiliated with the ministries and transferring them to the affiliated ministry or other institutions in that ministry, or other government ministries and organizations, as proposed by the Council of Ministers.

3 - Reform the system of bonus payments to establish a proportion between employee income and the level of employee efficiency.

4 - Use advanced administrative technology, especially information technology, to provide services at the desired quality and speed.

5 - Procure part of the government's manpower needs through the services of those performing compulsory national service in the executive organizations, with the approval of the Defense Council.

6 - Compile a unified employment system for all government organizations throughout the country to establish employment justice and submit it to the Majles no later than the end of the first year of the plan's implementation.

7 - Establish equilibrium between the wages and benefits of government employees in view of inflation in order to prevent the decline in their purchasing power and submit the plan to the Majles no later than the end of the first year of the plan's implementation.

Mr Rahmati Explains the Proposal

In explaining this proposal, Mr Rahmati said: In Paragraph 1 we proposed that in addition to the transfer of government organizations, there are other private organizations that use government resources. We have given the government the opportunity, should it deem it advisable, to transfer non- government and semi-government organizations and companies out of Tehran and base them in other municipalities, and it can propose this to the Council of Ministers on the suggestion of the relevant minister or the president of the republic. This is a policy aimed at preventing inflation and reducing the growth of Tehran, a heavy burden now weighing on Tehran.

In explaining Paragraph 2 of the proposal, he said: The respected deputies are complaining loudly about the unbridled expansion of government organizations, and they believe that the administrative organizations must be reformed. We are providing a paragraph in Note 23, however, in which we free the government from carrying out legal projects and prevent it from carrying out their work. If we seriously believe in our hearts and souls that the government must work, we must make the tools available to it.

Mr Rahmati added: We now see an unrealistic justice in employment and administrative matters. This is because we are still committed to the same laws and regulations formerly available to us, and no one has been concerned enough to step out into the open and fight. We have now made it clear that this administrative and employment system must come to a conclusion during the 5 years.

Mr Herati (Opposition)

Mr Herati said in opposition to Mr Rahmati's proposal: I wish we had seen a working spirit in those with the greatest responsibility in these matters in the Majles, instead of all these high and mighty slogans about changing the nation's administrative system.

He then divided the differences between the Majles Administrative Affairs and Employment Commission and the Plan and Budget Commission into three categories. He said: Concerning the transfer of government and organization units and units that in some way make use of government resources as well as institutions required to give their names under the law, fortunately the first part of that has been achieved, but as for the second group, who are merely recipients of aid, such as the Islamic Propaganda Organization, you are not in any way legally authorized to order an organization which merely receives a small amount of aid from you to go to some other place.

Mr Herati also discussed the difference between consolidating private institutions and dissolving some organizations affiliated with ministries and transferring them, which is the prerogative of the affiliated ministries, and the compilation of a unified employment system for all government organizations. He said: These three differences raised here by the brother deputies are not practical in any way. First, that first section is in clear violation of the law, and with regard to the law's consolidation and dissolution, after 5 minutes of comments in support and opposition, you want to authorize the Council of Ministers to dissolve 10 ministries and consolidate 10 organizations. But on the basis of what regulations and criteria? At least you have not brought forth those regulations and criteria. As for the unified employment system you are talking about, it is only feasible in the land of dreams. Indeed, at the level of practical implementation it cannot be carried out at all.

Mr 'Avaz-Zadeh (Favoring the Proposal)

Mr 'Avaz-Zadeh supported this proposal, and speaking of the reasons for his support, he said: The proposal made by the Majles Administrative Affairs and Employment Commission includes all the stipulations the government has made. However, it has some things the government has not stipulated, or taken notice of.

Explaining Paragraph 2, he said: Paragraph 2 has to do with dissolution and consolidation. That is, the government does not have the right to form new organizations. If the government wants to form a new organization, it must obtain authorization from the Majles and elsewhere. That is, the government cannot form new organizations on its own. If it must obtain Majles authorization for small organization, it will take months to eliminate them.

In conclusion, Mr 'Avaz-Zadeh noted: We say that the government is required to create a unified employment system. When the organizations are in Tehran, the system of payment will be a just one.

The Plan and Budget Commission was opposed to this proposal and did not speak.

The Government's Representative

Mr Roghani-Zanjani, supervisor of the Plan and Budget Organization, said: This proposal roughly conforms to the view of the government, and other than the part pertaining to the private institutions and the unified system, if it had not been a proposal, it would have been one hundred percent in conformity with the government's view and would also have been approved, but concerning Paragraph 6 we must say that the government does not in any way believe in the unified employment system. The unified employment system must apply to all of the government's executive organizations.

He added: It appears that the principles and fundamentals of payment could be applied after being compiled and codified, but a unified system for payment has a regional look and the government does not accept it. Currently, the Majles authorization and the prerogatives the Majles has given to the various organizations and companies, due to the special importance the companies have, have mixed the nature of their work, even though they themselves create problems with manpower imbalances among executive organizations.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Zanjani said: Another paragraph pertains to the private institutions that make use of government resources. I do not think that we have such institutions that entirely make use of government resources and use water and electricity resources.

In conclusion he noted: If we move around the population attractions that produce centralized organizations, this will automatically make the work experimental. The government is therefore opposed to the proposed paragraph.

The above proposal was put to a vote and rejected.

Continuation of the Majles Proceedings

Concerning Note 23, a group of deputies proposed that Paragraph 6 from the Majles Administrative Affairs and Employment Commission replace Paragraph 2:

Compile a unified economic system for all government organizations throughout the country to establish employment justice and submit it to the Majles no later than by the end of the first year of the plan's implementation.

Concerning this proposal, Mr Herati spoke in opposition and Mr Saleh-Abadi spoke in favor, and after comments from the commission expert and the government's representative, the proposal was put to a vote and approved.

Yesterday afternoon the Majles convened in public session chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian, and took up consideration of the five-year plan bill.

Consideration of the proposal concerning Note 23 continued in this session and the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission asked for the deletion of Paragraph 4, and asked for the substitution of the following paragraph:

In peacetime, the government is authorized, to procure some of its manpower needs and with the approval of the Armed Forces Command Staff, to employ persons performing compulsory military service in agricultural, administrative, education, production, and reconstruction crusade work, in such a way that it will not impair their combat readiness and with full observation of the principles of Islamic justice, and with the following stipulations: 1) they must be employed after completing military training 2) exclusively employed with the wages, benefits and expenses pertaining to the period of compulsory service 3) they must not be employed in staff units.

The guidelines for this paragraph will be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Concerning this proposal, Mr Akrami spoke in opposition and Mr Hadi-Ghaffari spoke in support, and after the views of the commission expert, the government representative, and the representative of the Armed Forces Command Staff were given, the proposal was put to a vote and approved.

Note 24 - In order to procure some of its manpower needs, the government is authorized to make use of the services of persons performing compulsive military service in the relevant executive organizations, with priorities going respectively to health care and treatment, industry, mining, and agriculture, and with the approval of the Ministry of Defense.

A group of deputies proposed the elimination of Note 24, and this proposal was put to a vote and approved.

Note 25 - The government is required to create a centralized and efficient organization with the necessary facilities and legal prerogatives to centralize policy-making and planning and to transfer work freely to executive units and educational institutions in the area of technical and professional education.

With regard to this note, a group of deputies proposed the deletion of Note 2, which was approved by the deputies.

Note 26 - Within 3 months the government must establish a unified national culture and propaganda system, consolidate the parallel organizations and centers, and submit the necessary law to the Majles.

Several proposals were submitted regarding this note which were not approved. There will be public Majles sessions this morning and this afternoon.

Deputies' Letter Condemning America's Invasion of Panama

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that 167 deputies signed and read in yesterday's public session a letter condemning America's military intervention in Panama.

The letter says: Although America's clearly irresponsible and domineering intervention in international and national internal affairs, the trampling of the rights of nations and of international principles, laws and policies itself are sufficient illustration of the inhumane, unbridled, and insane power of the leaders of America's White House, what is more worrisome to the nations of the Third World than this danger is that America's insane policy, especially concerning the intervention in the internal affairs of nations as it is being seen in Panama where even now America is brazenly, and despite all international principles and laws, permitting itself to appoint a president for an independent country, is becoming an international practice, and it is a serious threat to the independence and existence of all Third World nations.

Under these conditions, we Majles deputies, following the repeated and forceful warnings from the late leader of the Islamic revolution His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (may his grave be sanctified) and the guidance of the great leader Ayatollah Khamene'i, while condemning America's clear intervention in Panama, call upon all parliaments in independent countries to prevent the continuation of this intervention with one voice and condemnation.

Also worthy of mention is another statement signed by more than 160 Majles deputies which arrived at yesterday's Majles session. Part of this statement said: It is painful and astonishing that the small nation of Panama and its heroic people were viciously attacked by America's disgraceful democracy. We Majles deputies, who, in accordance with our sacred orthodox criteria and imamate, believe in supporting the oppressed and in fighting for workers, continually express our loathing and enmity for this ugly and filthy crime by American imperialism, which has occurred in violation of all the criteria of politics, humanity, and human rights. We declare that we will do everything in our power to support the heroic people of Panama.

Elsewhere in this statement, the United Nations, the Security Council, and all responsible political bodies were asked to punish the American criminals for their crimes, and to respect the rights of the heroic people of Panama, who have been attacked in the same way as the nations of Palestine and Lebanon.

At the conclusion of this statement, the Majles deputies called upon the people of Tehran and the revolutionary organizations to gather in front of the Majles at 3:00 pm on Tuesday 5 Dey [26 December] on their behalf to support the people of Panama and the genuine and combative government of this nation and to express their revulsion at criminal America's ugly and bloody actions.

Pakistan

Further Reportage, Comment on Kashmir Issue

Yaqub Khan Rejects Indian Charge

BK2201162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, had a meeting with the Indian prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, in New Delhi today. During the meeting, he rejected Indian efforts to blame Pakistan for the unrest in the Indian-held Kashmir, which he said stemmed from indigenous causes. He added that the use of force against Kashmiris would further aggravate public opinion in Pakistan.

Minister Urges 'Moral Support'

BK2201101690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 22 (AFP)—The prime minister of Pakistani Kashmir, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, has urged Pakistanis to extend "moral" support to Moslem secessionists in Indian Kashmir, press reports said Monday [22 January].

"Kashmiris will succeed in their just struggle" to secede Jammu and Kashmir from India, the prime minister of Pakistan's Azad (free) Jammu and Kashmir, told reporters in nearby Rawalpindi on Sunday. He called the movement an "uprising in occupied Kashmir" and said "Kashmiris are waging a war against the usurpers."

Thirty-two people were killed and some 200 wounded late Saturday and Sunday when Indian security forces fired at thousands of Moslem protesters defying a curfew in Srinagar, capital of Indian Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto met with Mr. Hayat Khan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum on Sunday and said that there could be "no compromise" with India on the question of "the right of self-determination" for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Hayat Khan expressed satisfaction over the attitude of Pakistan's national government, saying it "does not want this problem to go unattended." The Kashmiri premier said that his "All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference" would hold a conference here February 17-19 to chalk out a common strategy on the Kashmir issue. Politicians, jurists, journalists and intellectuals had been invited to the conference, he said.

Barrister Sultan Mehmood, an opposition member of the legislative assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sunday urged the Pakistani Government to present the

Kashmir issue to the United Nations. "It is time to resolve this issue in United Nations," he said.

Addressing a news conference in Karachi, Mr. Mehmood said he would approach the U.N. Commission on Human Rights on behalf of Kashmiris and appraise it of the latest developments in Indian Kashmir. He said he hoped "the sacrifices rendered by Kashmiris will not go to waste and the long night of oppression and suppression in occupied Kashmir will come to an end."

Leaders Praise Bhutto

BK2201160590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Prominent Kashmiri leaders have thanked the Pakistani prime minister for her concrete and courageous stand on the Kashmir issue. Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, said that he is satisfied with the support expressed by Ms Benazir Bhutto. He said he favors a peaceful and political settlement of the Kashmir issue.

Another Kashmiri leader, Amanullah Khan, said the situation in the occupied Kashmir has deteriorated due to imposition of central rule there by the Indian Government. He said that the demand for a plebiscite to determine the future of the occupied territories is the basic right of the Kashmiris.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir Liberation Alliance has appealed to the Islamic world to pay attention to the atrocities unleashed by the Indian rulers on the Kashmiri people. A Jammu and Kashmir Awami Party meeting in Mirpur drew the attention of the world community to the tragic condition of innocent Kashmiri Muslims and appealed for an end to the bloodshed in occupied territories.

Reports say that a wave of anguish and grief swept various cities and towns of Azad Kashmir due to the genocide committed by the Indian troops in Srinagar yesterday. Protest demonstrations and rallies were held in all Azad Kashmir regions as a show of solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir. Political and religious parties and student organizations held the biggest rally in Muzaffarabad.

Speakers at the rallies expressed grave concern over the genocide of Kashmiri Muslims and stressed the need for complete coordination to carry out a joint struggle for the liberation of occupied territories. They commended Ms Benazir Bhutto's statement on the issue and emphasized the need to raise the question at the United Nations. The demonstrators presented a memorandum to the UN observers office. Earlier, thousands of people offered funeral prayers for the martyrs of Srinagar. Similar demonstrations and rallies were also held at Kotri, Rawalakot, and Mirpur.

Leaders on 'Deteriorating' Situation

BK2101004090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1808 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 20 (AFP)—The Pakistani heads of state and government met with senior military officials here Saturday to review the deteriorating situation in Indian-held Kashmir, official sources said.

Opposition leaders also called Saturday for an emergency meeting of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the problem in Kashmir, which is hotly disputed by India and Pakistan.

The high-level meeting came a day after New Delhi imposed direct governor's rule on the northern State of Jammu and Kashmir following an escalation of violence by Muslim militants campaigning for the state's secession.

The sources said the unusual meeting was attended by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, federal ministers and senior civil and military officials.

An official statement issued later said "the government and the people of Pakistan viewed with concern the deteriorating situation" in the Indian controlled part of the territory. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars on Kashmir in the past 42 years.

Some political analysts here feared the militant campaign and Indian efforts to quell it could generate into a crisis situation for the traditionally hostile neighbours. A similar campaign in 1965 led to a war between the two countries.

However, a Foreign Office spokesman here this week expressed satisfaction that the two countries have experienced "an unprecedented era of peace" since the third war in 1971 which resulted in the signing of an agreement denouncing use of force for resolution of bilateral disputes.

Saturday's meeting also follows former Premier Mohammed Khan Junejo's request that the Bhutto government draw the attention of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, chief of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e Eslami Pakistan, called Saturday for convening an emergency summit of the OIC to discuss the plight of fellow Muslim in Kashmir.

The opposition leader condemned the killing of Muslim militants in Jammu and Kashmir and said the OIC Secretariate should convene an extraordinary session on the issue.

The militant campaign has claimed 30 lives this year, forcing the state's government to resign. New Delhi on Friday appointed the state governor to directly administer Jammu and Kashmir on its behalf.

Mr. Ahmad said the movement in India's only Muslim-majority state took "inspiration from the Afghan mujahidin," who he said forced the retreat of 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan. "No power, how strong it may be, can subjugate the masses," he said.

Mr. Ahmad, whose party is considered a well-organised grouping, said Kashmiris have "every right" to demolish the ceasefire line drawn after the partition of the Himalayan state following the 1948 India-Pakistan war.

Indian forces should learn from the recent developments that "they cannot suppress the Kashmiri freedom fighters," he added.

Mr. Ahmad said the combined opposition parties had decided to requisite a special session of the Pakistani Parliament to discuss the Kashmir problem and evolve a consensus on the issue.

His party would observe a day of solidarity with people of occupied Kashmir on February 5, he said. "We are with you, and you are with us," Mr. Ahmad said adding that any support Pakistan would extend to the Kashmiris "cannot be regarded as interference as Kashmir remains a disputed state in the United Nations files."

Meanwhile, the Azad (Free) Kashmir chapter of the ruling Pakistan People's Party has begun a week of solidarity with Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir. It staged a rally in the Pakistani administered part of the region condemning use of force against fellow Kashmiris. Speaking at the rally, the chapter's chief, Sardar Ibrahim, demanded implementation of the U.N. resolution which called for right of self-determination under impartial observers in Kashmir.

Commentator Reviews Background

BK2201145590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Shakil Ahmad commentary]

[Text] Dr Farooq Abdullah has resigned as the chief minister in the strife-torn state of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Jag Mohan, who has been recently appointed as the new state governor, has suspended the state assembly and has mentioned the possibility that the assembly might be dismissed if needed. The Indian Government authorities in New Delhi have simultaneously imposed governor's rule in occupied Kashmir. This is the third time that governor's rule has been imposed in the occupied Kashmir. It was earlier imposed in 1977 and 1984.

Dr Farooq Abdullah has resigned in protest against the appointment of the new state governor, Mr Jag Mohan. A large number of politicians in India have also criticized the appointment of a controversial person as governor of the occupied state, demanding his immediate recall. Dr Abdullah has however claimed that Mr Jag Mohan has been appointed with the sole objective of dismissing his coalition government for its failure to maintain law and order in the state. Dr Abdullah's resignation has been prompted by factors other than the appointment of a new governor. He has never been regarded as a popular figure. The recent repressive policies adopted by him could have further eroded whatever [word indistinct] support he might have enjoyed. His resignation, therefore, was not due to any disagreement of policies with authorities in New Delhi, but was aimed at securing political advantage and bolstering his sagging political image.

The trouble for Dr Farooq Abdullah began in December last year, shortly after Mr V.P. Singh came to power following general elections in India. The daughter of Mr Mufti Muhammad Sayeed was kidnapped by the members of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front shortly after Mr Sayeed was appointed as the home minister. Her release could not be secured after the release of five liberation front members who had been jailed by Mr Abdullah's government. [sentence as heard] The failure of the state government to quickly put down the popular uprising would have raised serious concerns and misgivings in the minds of the new government of Mr V.P. Singh.

Dr Abdullah's coalition government had been put together with considerable difficulty by Mr Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. The coalition government had returned to power in 1987 in the wake of charges of widespread rigging in the election.

The imposition of the governor's rule will enable the central government to deal harshly with the popular unrest in the valley. This is evident from the fact that Indian Army has been ordered to shoot at sight. Despite curfew and severe restrictions on movement of people, widespread resistance causing loss of valuable life and property is continuing.

In order to divert the public opinion at home, the government of Mr V.P. Singh has accused Pakistan of aiding and assisting the liberation movement. The accusation has been made without any shade of evidence of Pakistan's involvement in what is perceived by international observers as a spontaneous and indigenous popular uprising. The response of the Government of Pakistan has been both measured and responsible. The president and the prime minister have met to review the overall situation.

In order to evolve a national consensus, a joint session of the parliament is being convened early next month. The Simla Agreement recognizes the disputed nature of the state. The UN resolutions on the subject of holding a plebiscite in Kashmir remained unimplemented due to India's refusal to allow the people of the state their inalienable right to self-determination.

The rulers in New Delhi ought to draw a lesson from the events occurring in Eastern Europe. The popular unrest sweeping throughout the Soviet bloc has not been attributed to external forces. The people in these countries have revolted against use of oppression and tyranny. The people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir are demonstrating once again that they cannot be held in chains and bondage and denied the right to self-determination. They have paid a heavy price so that the conscience of the United Nations can be (?tied) into implementing the resolution that would grant the Kashmiris the right to live in honor and dignity in accordance with the principles outlined in the charter of this world body. Accusing Pakistan will not serve the purpose, as Pakistan wants peace in the region. And Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will be conveying the same message in New Delhi.

Minister of State Comments on Soviet Visit

BK2201043190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A high-level Soviet delegation will visit Pakistan in March to finalize an agreement to establish a joint ministerial commission aimed at promoting bilateral ties in the fields of economy, trade, and science and technology. This was stated by the minister of state for science and technology, Mr Javed Jabbar, at a news conference in Karachi yesterday on his return from a visit to the Soviet Union.

He said there are signs of improvement of Pakistan-Soviet relations and both countries are willing to explore and expand fields of cooperation. Mr Javed Jabbar said Pakistan particularly wants to cooperate with the Soviet Union in the field of science and technology. He said his talks with Soviet officials and scientists have paved the way for increased cooperation in the future.

Authorities Seize Heroin, Gold; Arrest 20

BK2101003490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1947 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Karachi, Jan 20 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities in this southern port city have arrested 20 people, seizing quantities of heroine, and smuggled gold and silver from them, official sources said saturday.

Customs police, working on a tip-off, arrested two people with 30 kilograms (66 pounds) of heroin in two different hauls, the sources said.

The date of their arrest was not given. The sources said the two detainees hail from northwestern Mardan town, located near Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal area known for poppy cultivation.

Tons of poppy are produced in the tribal area, bordering Afghanistan, every year and converted into opium and heroin in clandestine laboratories there.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Coast Guard on Wednesday seized 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of gold from a Dubai-registered launch, named Sohail, and arrested its nine-member crew in the Arabian Sea, official sources said.

The same day the Coast Guard recovered over five kilograms (11 pounds) of silver from another launch and arrested its crew of nine, the sources said. The boat, named Al-Mecca, was registered in Karachi.

All the arrested were Pakistanis, the sources said.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Killed in LTTE Attack 21 Jan

BK2201030690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Eight PKF [Peacekeeping Force] men were killed and ten injured when LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacked a PKF patrol party in the outskirts of Jaffna yesterday. According to a PKF release in Madras a group of LTTE militants attacked the patrol party with rockets and heavy weapons.

IPKF Imposes Curfew in Jaffna

BK2301090990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, curfew has been imposed by the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] following fierce fighting with LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Jaffna. UNI, quoting Tamil sources from Colombo, says that 16 rebels and 11 PKF soldiers were killed in the fighting yesterday. The Indian High Commission has charged the LTTE with launching an unprovoked and treacherous attack on the PKF in Jaffna.

Foreign Ministry To 'Strengthen' Missions Abroad

BK1701080490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, Jan 17 (AFP)—Sri Lanka will strengthen its diplomatic missions in Japan, India, the Middle East and South Korea as part of a major reorganisation plan, officials here said Wednesday.

A new embassy is to be opened in Iran and Colombo's representation in Oman is to be upgraded, the Foreign Ministry here said in a release. Two embassies are to be shut down, the ministry said, without naming them.

"Based on a careful assessment of the relative political, economic importance to Sri Lanka of the various regions it was decided to strengthen our representation in India, Middle East, Japan and South Korea," the ministry said.

It said 40 new consular posts are being established in principal cities of the world.

The reorganisation also aims to cut costs, and the government has already recalled 20 diplomats considered superfluous, the statement said.

It said the reorganisation was prompted by a directive of President Ranasinghe Premadasa to make Sri Lanka's missions abroad "effective instruments for the proper management of all aspects of external relations."

"Restructured missions functioning as focal points are expected to obviate to a great extent, the necessity to send frequent special missions or delegations from Sri Lanka for specific purposes," it added.